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Rain. Poison. Explosives. Vengeance. It's a deadly combination that forms a volatile brew, as the final showdown between ronin assassin Ogami Itto and his nemesis Retsudo begins. While the torrential rains continue to pound Edo, Retsudo and his bloodthirsty Yagyu army rush along the banks of the swelling Hatcho River, racing to beat a load of explosives that's traveling down the other side, right into the hands of the vengeful samurai Ogami. Meanwhile, the cunning poisoner Abeno sees his chance to destroy both sides by flooding all of Edo! Forced to put their battle aside, Ogami and Retsudo fight side by side to save Edo from the floods, while Ogami's little son Diagoro wanders alone, fighting for his life and searching for his father. It's a deluge of evil, and it threatens to wash away all that stands in its path!

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KAZUO KOIKE & GOSEKI KOJIMA

LONE WOLF AND CUB

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By KAZUO KOIKE & GOSEKI KOJIMA

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DANA LEWIS

lettering & retouch
DIGITAL CHAMELEON

cover illustration
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HEAVEN AND EARTH

子連れ狼

By KAZUO KOIKE
& GOSEKI KOJIMA

VOLUME

22

A NOTE TO READERS

Lone Wolf and Cub is famous for its carefully researched re-creation of Edo-Period Japan. To preserve the flavor of the work, we have chosen to retain many Edo-Period terms that have no direct equivalents in English. Japanese is written in a mix of Chinese ideograms and a syllabic writing system, resulting in numerous synonyms. In the glossary, you may encounter words with multiple meanings. These are words written with Chinese ideograms that are pronounced the same but carry different meanings. A Japanese reader seeing the different ideograms would know instantly which meaning it is, but these synonyms can cause confusion when Japanese is spelled out in our alphabet. *O-yurushi o* (please forgive us)!

LONE WOLF AND CUB

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the hundred and eighth

The Last Fistful

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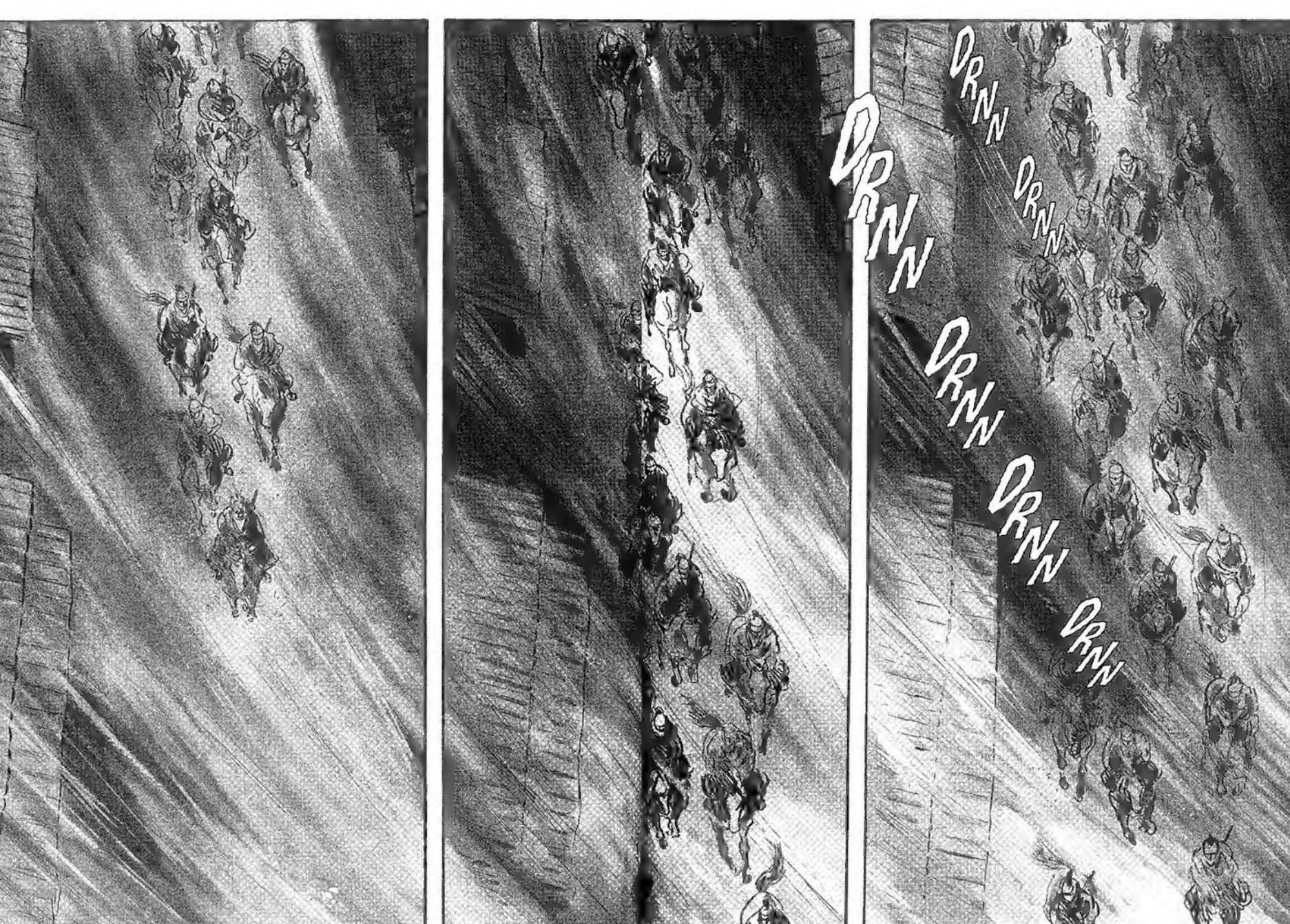
DRNN
DRNN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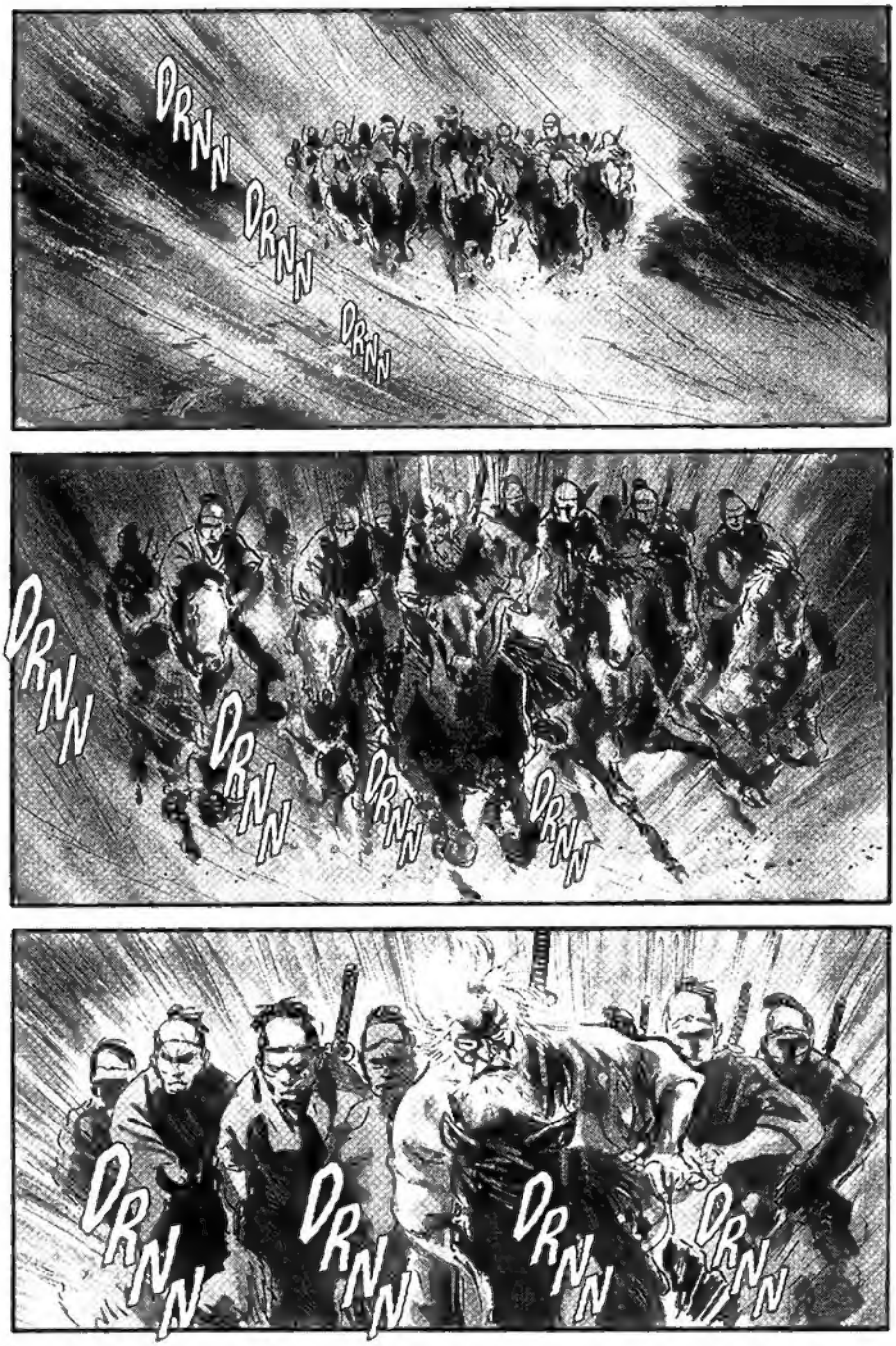
DRNN DRNN DRNN DRNN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DRNN
DRNN
DRNN
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DRNN
DRNN

THE BREACH IN THE LEVEE FORCED RETSUDŌ'S ARMY ON A LONG DETOUR.
BUT IN THIS DRIVING WIND AND RAIN, A DETOUR RISKED NOT ONLY MISSING THE WINDOW FOR VICTORY...
...IT COULD ALSO EXHAUST HIS TROOPS BEFORE THEY ENTERED BATTLE. RETSUDŌ DECIDED TO SWITCH TO HORSEBACK.

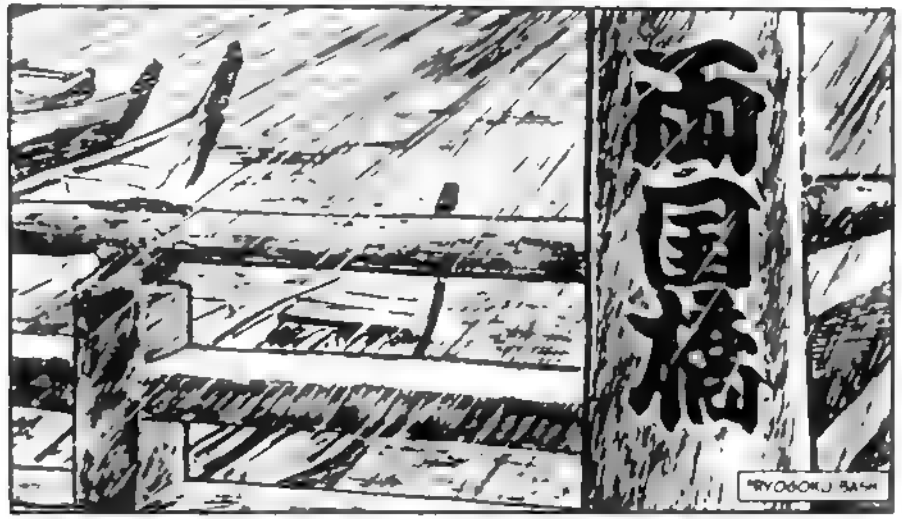
LIKE A
THUNDERING
WAVE

DRNN
DRNN
DRNN
WHDD
SHAKKA

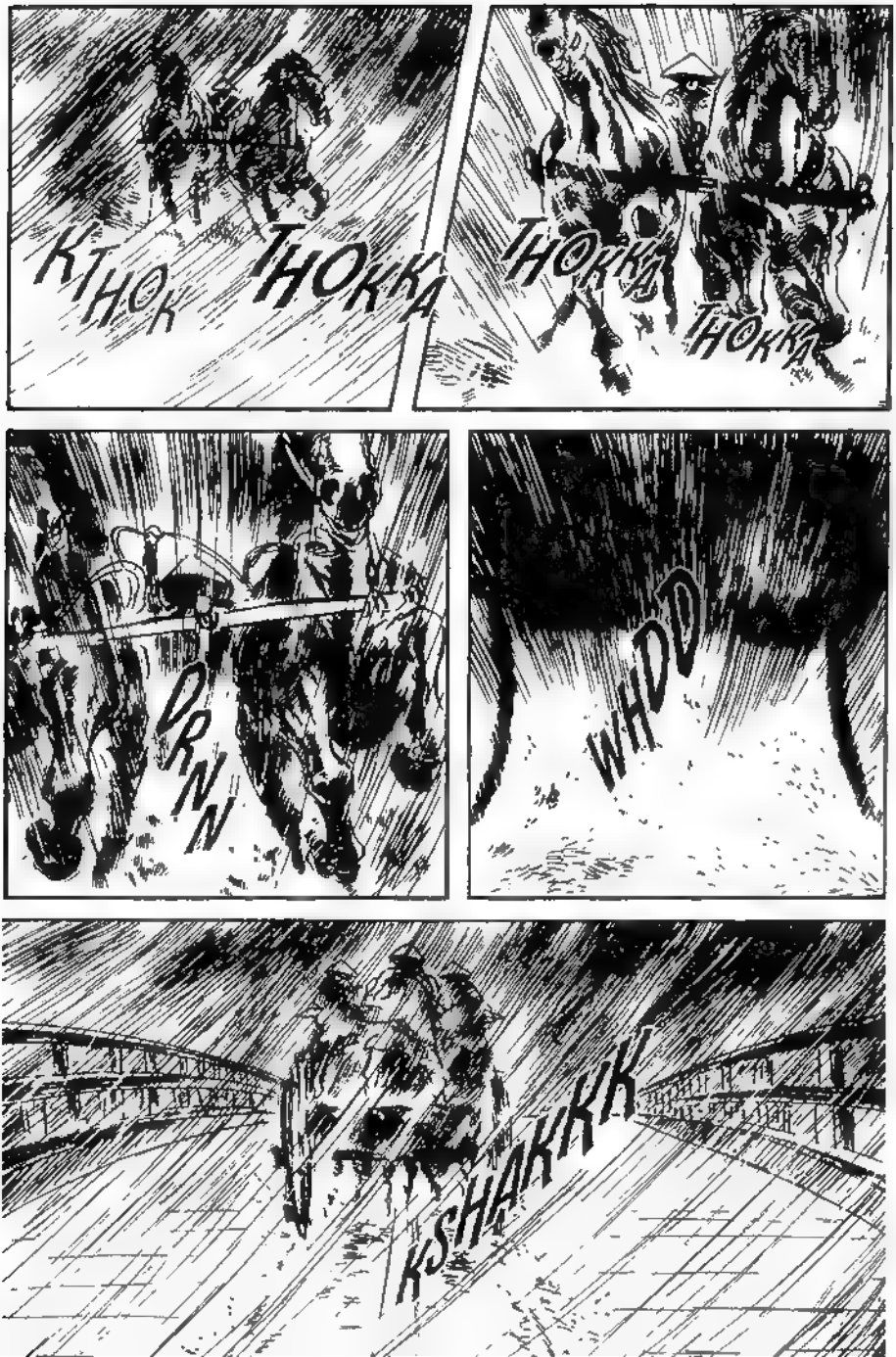
AT THE SAME TIME, NAGASAKIYA ALSO RUSHED TO FUKAGAWA.
DRN-IN
KTHOK... KTHOK

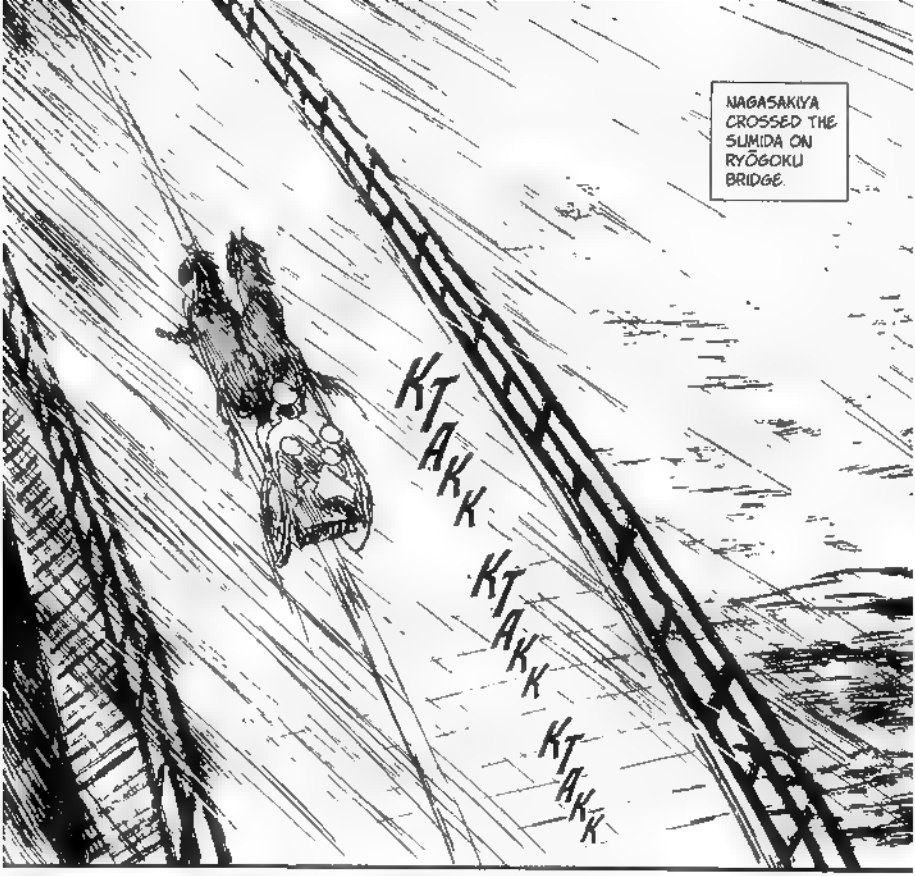
KTHOK
KTHOK
HIS CARGO, THE PROMISED TŌTEKIRAI FOR ŌGAMI ITTŌ.

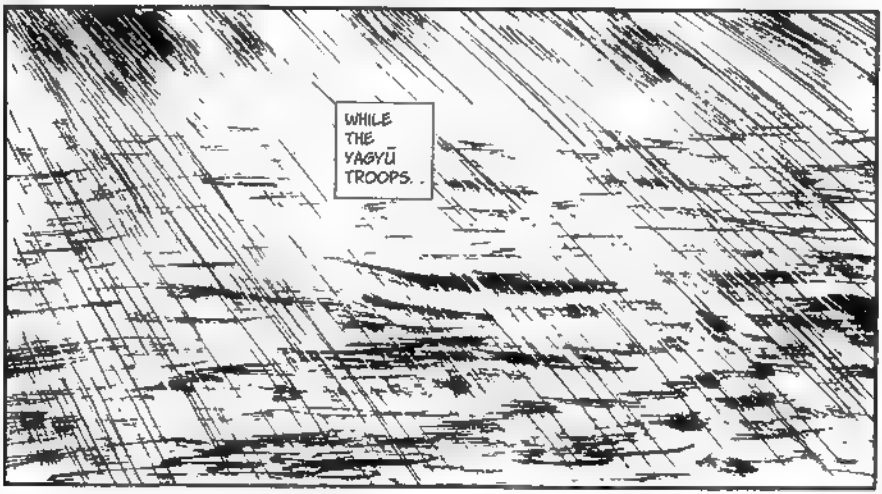
WHSSSSSH
SLSSSSH
SPARRSSH
WHOOSH

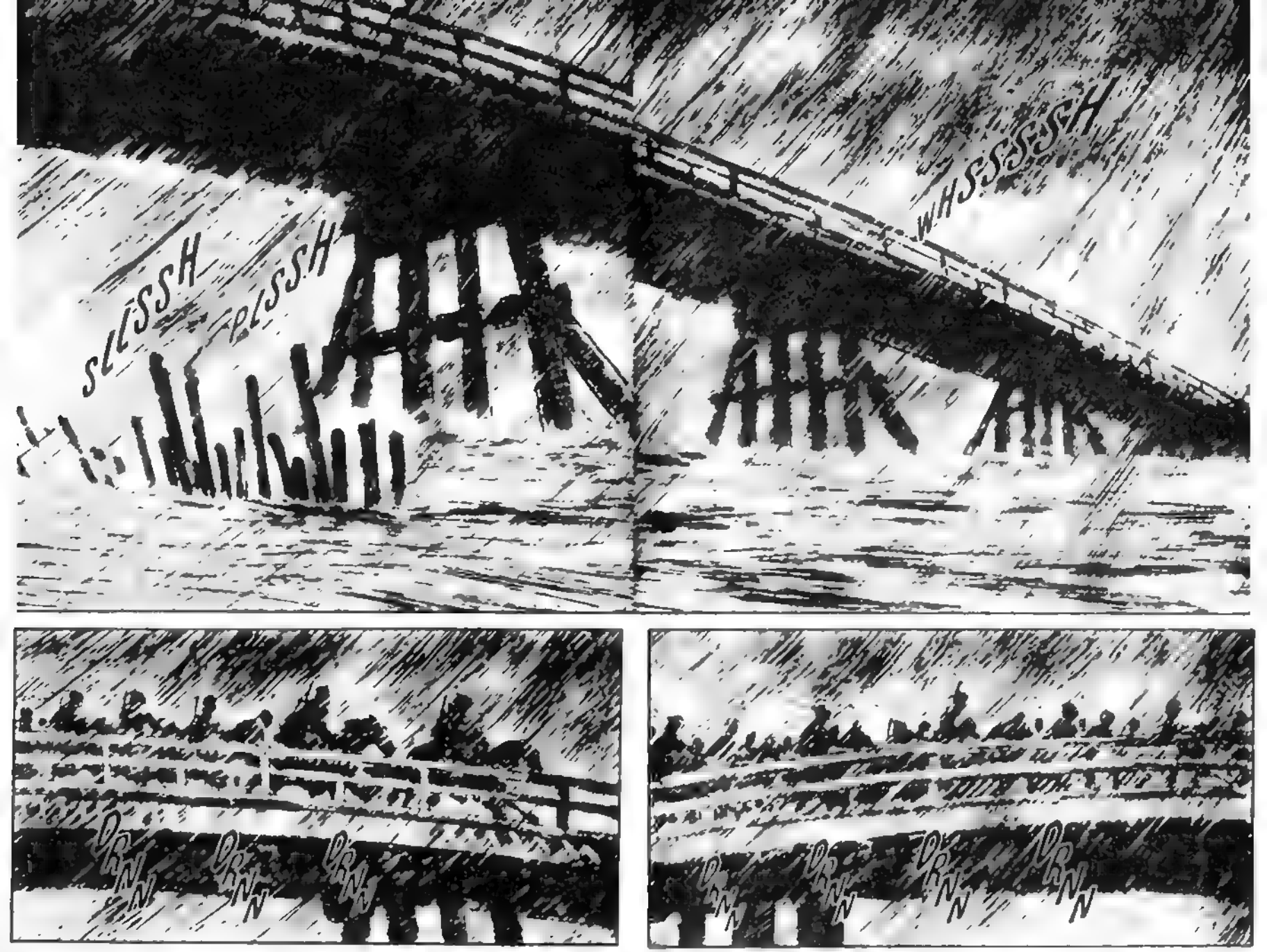

両国橋
RYOGOKU BASH

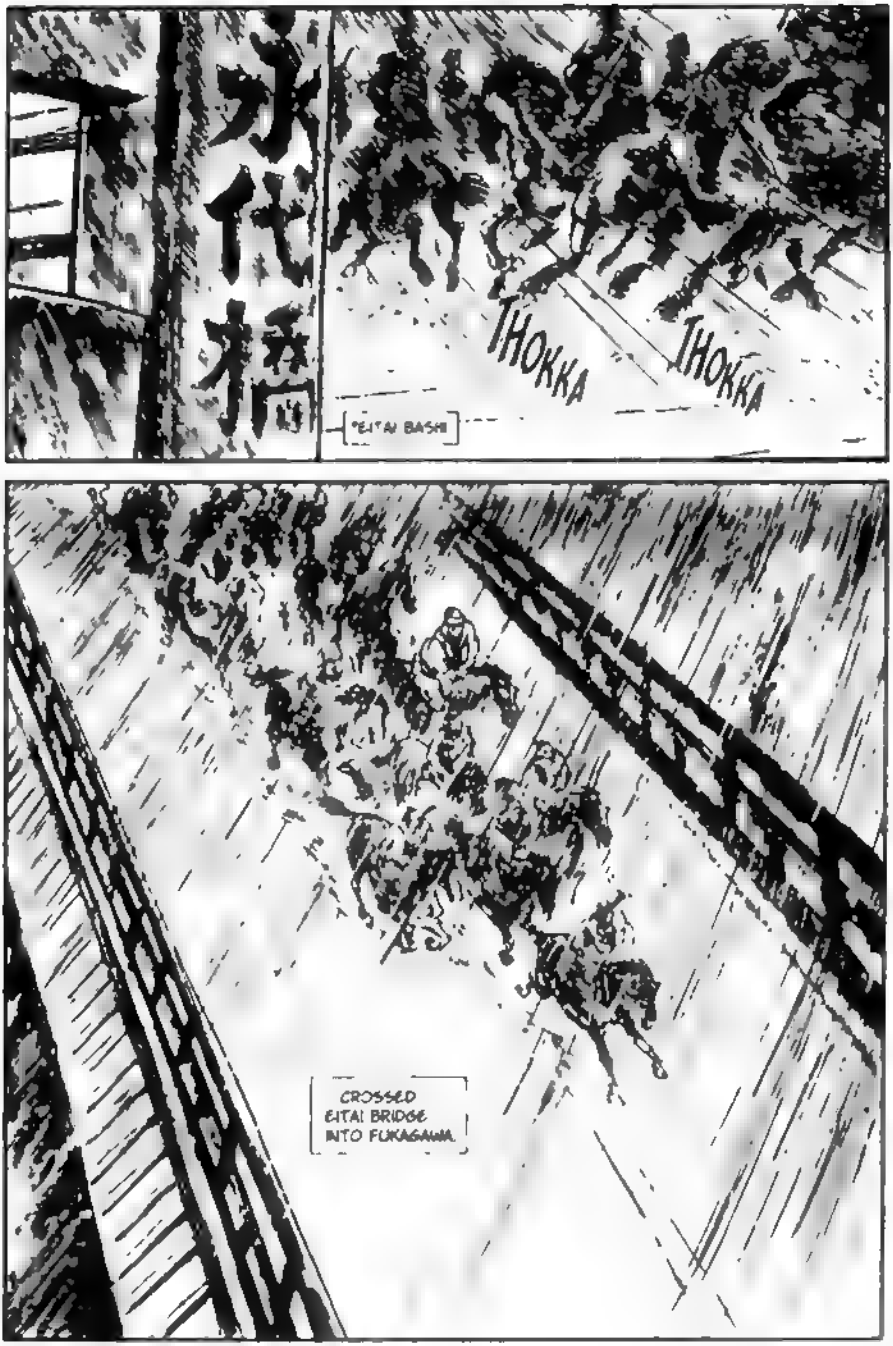
SHAKKA
ORNN

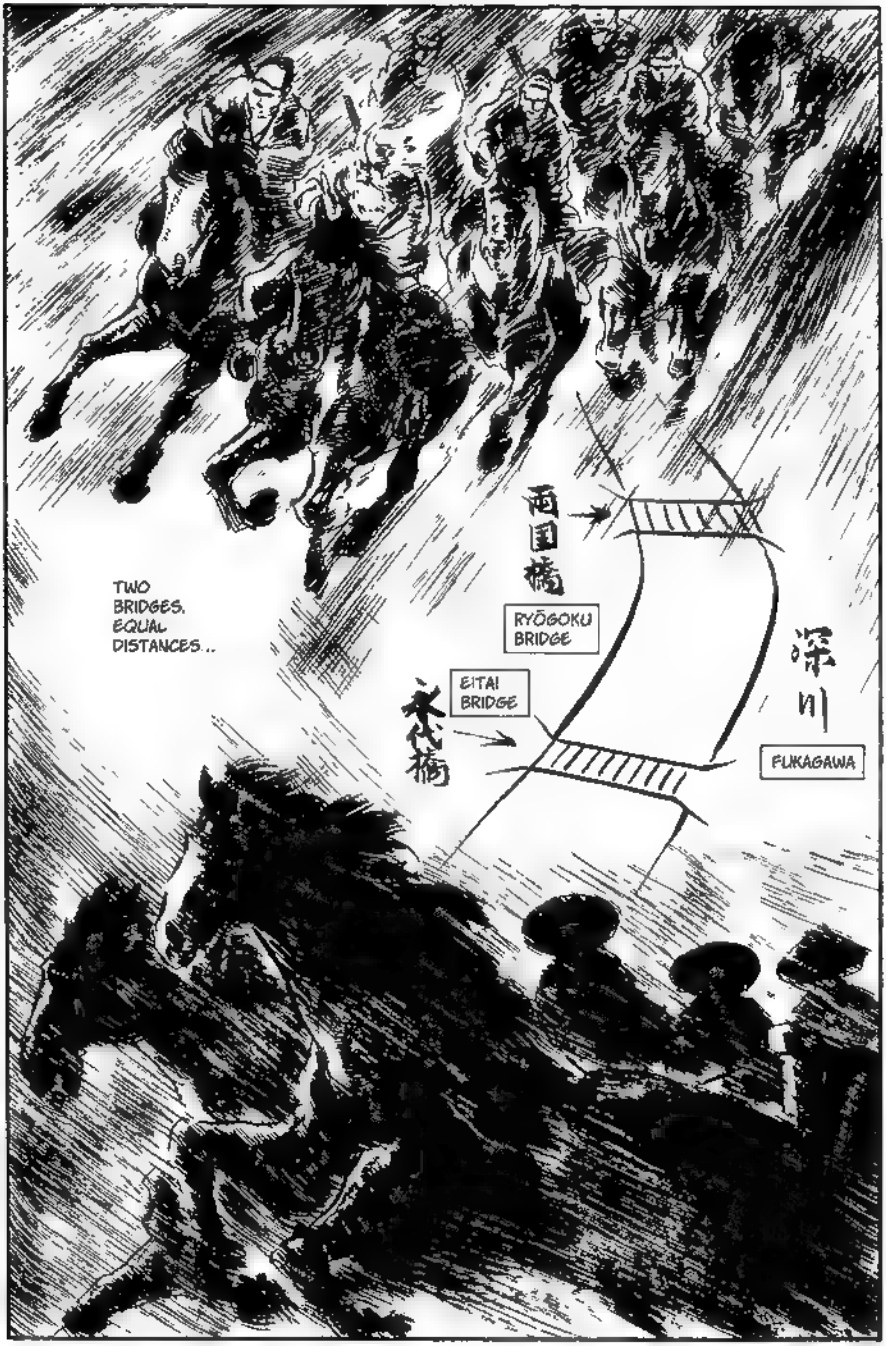

KTHOK
THOKKA
THOKKA
THOKKA
RRN
WHDD
KSHAKKK


NAGASAKIYA CROSSED THE SUMIDA ON RYŌGOKU BRIDGE.
KTAKK
KTAKK
KTAKK


WHILE THE YAGYŪ TROOPS.

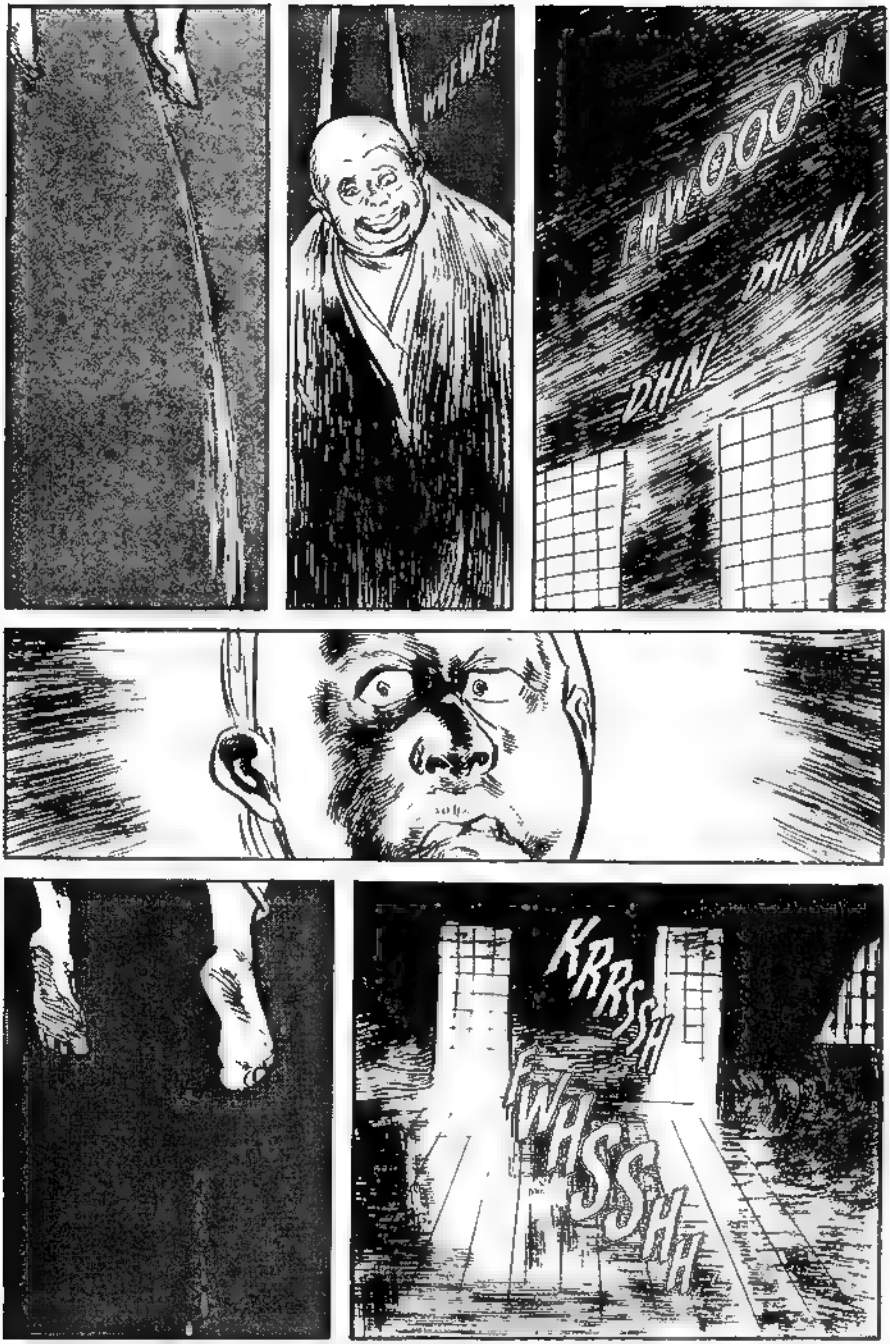

SLLSSSH
PLSSSH
WHSSSSSSH
AHH
AHHH
DRN
DRN
DRN
DRN
DRN
DRN
DRN


永代橋
THOKKA
THOKKA
EITAI BASHI
CROSSED EITAI BRIDGE INTO FUKAGAWA


TWO BRIDGES, EQUAL DISTANCES...
兩国橋
RYŌGOKU BRIDGE
永代橋
EITAI BRIDGE
深川
FUKAGAWA

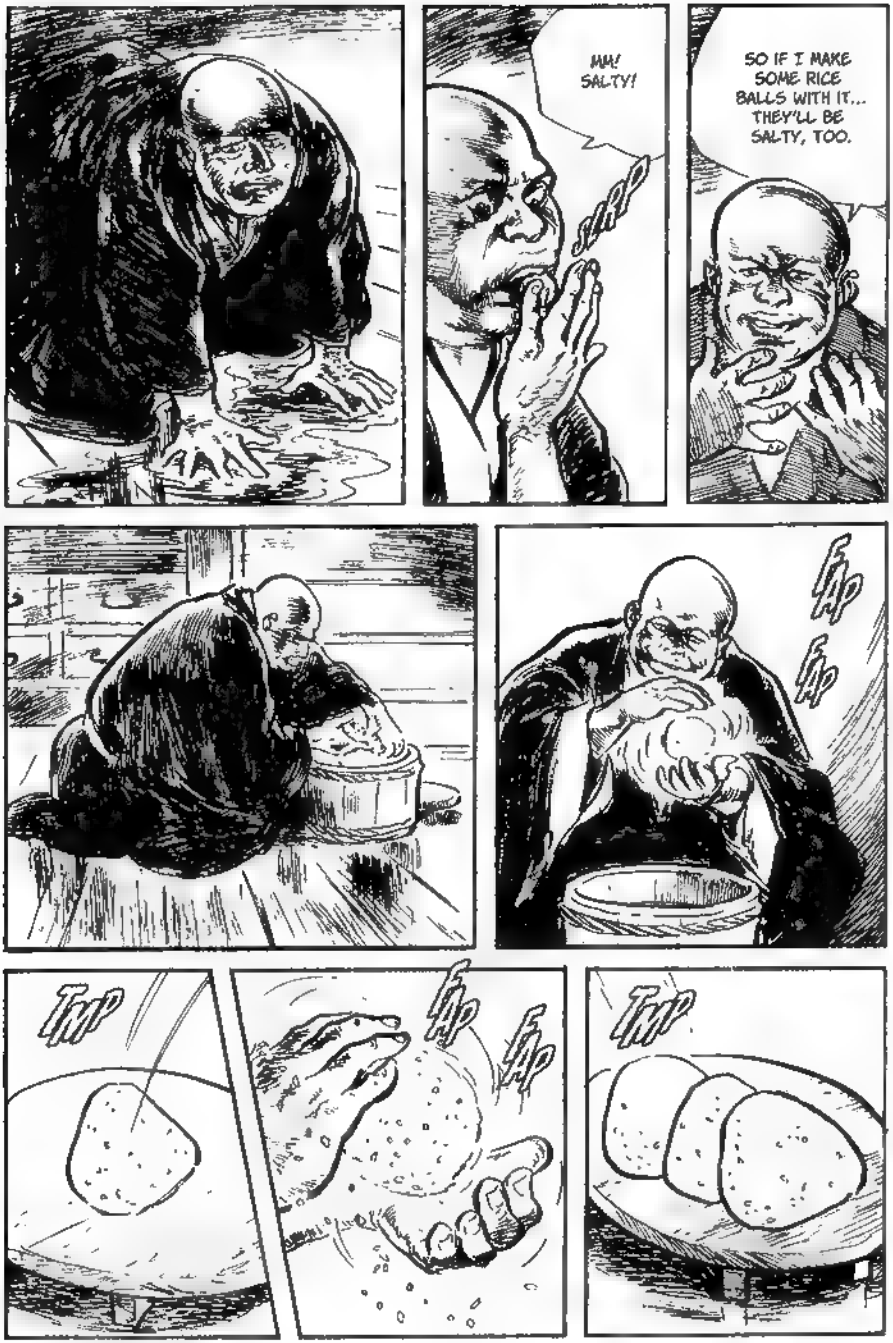
AHH! I'M SO BORED! HURRY UP, YAGYU!

NEED TO PEE...


MIEWF!
FHWOOOSH
DHNN
DHN
KRRSSH
FWASSHH

JUST THE WIND ..?
NOW I'M HUNGRY...
BUT, I DON'T GET IT...
THEY'RE LATE DON'T TELL ME MY LADIES BEAT THEM. ?
EVEN IF THEY SLOWED THEM DOWN, THEY'D BE HERE BY NOW... UNLESS. .?!
RIGHT!

THE LEVEE BROKE AND THEY BACK-TRACKED!
IT HAS TO BE!
IN WHICH CASE
I STILL HAVE TIME.
TO STUFF MY
FAC-
YEOW!
YEOWCH! OWW!


MM! SALTY!
SO IF I MAKE SOME RICE BALLS WITH IT... THEY'LL BE SALTY, TOO.
FAP FAP
TAP
FAP FAP
TAP

CHMP
CHMP
CRUNCH
CHMP
CHMP
KRNCH
MNCH
CHMP

DRNN
DRNN
DRNN
DRNN
DRNN
DRNN
DRNN
DRNN
UNGF !
GRRF
HRP
GHK!
THUMP
IT'S THEM!

WHSSSH
SLSSH
DRN
DRNN
DRNN
DRNN

HRRFFHH!!

GO-
ZEN!!

HEH
HEH HEH
HEH...
YOU
PATHETIC
FAKER!
HAH
HAH
HAH!
BWAH
HAH HAH!

fWTT
HOW'S IT *FEEL*, KAII? WALKING ON THE RAZOR'S EDGE OF *HELL*?!

HAH HAH HAH!
THE HANGED MAN TREMBLES!

H-HOW COULD YOU... T-TELL..
I...W-WAS A-ALIVE...?!
FOOL!!

WHSST
CHOK

GRHK!
HLLK!
AUGK!
HRK?!

HNNGH!
RRGH!
NGFF...
BWAH HAH HAH HAH HAH!

FWUDD
S-S-
SPARE
ME!!
I..I
DON'T
WANT TO
DIE!
I'LL DO.
ANYTHING!
K-KEEP
ME! I'LL BE
USEFUL!
I WILL!

THINK! THE. THE SHŌGUN TRUSTS ME!
A KUCHIYAKU CAN HELP YOU, YAGYŪ-SAMA...
JUST P-PLEASE.. SPARE MY LIFE!
WHERE'S ŌGAMI ITTŌ?
HE . JUST LEFT HE SAID HE'D WAIT BY THE MACHŌ

WHAT?!
HE SAID HE'D WAIT?!
Y-YES. . I'M CERTAIN.
HOW DID HE KNOW?
HOW DID HE KNOW THE LAST YAGYŪ WERE FOLLOWING HIM?!
YOU TOLD HIM?!
M-ME?! NOT ME! UH-UH! NOT A WORD. .!
HRM!

WE'VE LOST SURPRISE.
"WAIT," HE SAID. THEN SURELY HE HAS SOME TRICK UP HIS SLEEVE. "WAIT "
HRM!
MEN! HE WAITS BY THE HACHÖ!
BE CAREFUL! FULL VIGILANCE!

WSSSSHT
THWK

W...
WHY?
WHY...
WAIT!!

W.
WAIT...!
W-WAIT!!
W. WHY... WON'T YOU... KILL ME?!

LONE WOLF AND CUB, TOO... HE DIDN'T KILL ME!
W-WHY? I D-DON'T UNDERSTAND.
SHIDŌ IS TO FIND YOUR DEATH.
?!
UNDER-STAND...?
I..I DON'T!!
THEN I CAN'T KILL YOU.
NOW I REALLY DON'T!!

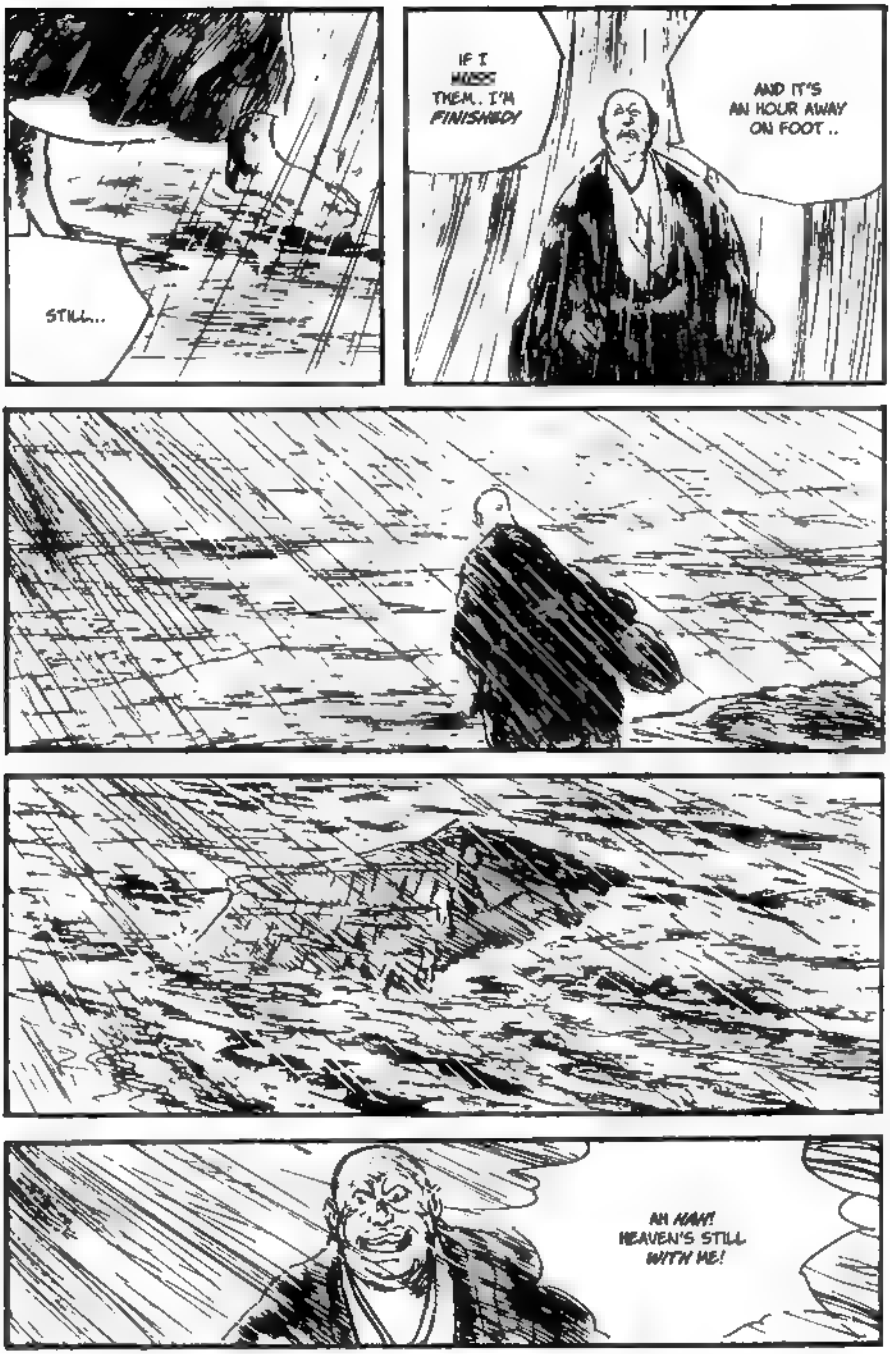
YOU PRETEND TO BE *HANGED*? WHAT *FOOLISHNESS!*
IT MIGHT WORK WITH PEASANTS, BUT NOT *SAMURAI!*
NO *BUSHI* WOULD FAKE DEATH FOR MEN READY TO *DIE*. ONLY *SCUM!*
HOW MUCH *DEATH* HAVE I SEEN, HMM?
AS *SWORDSMAN*, AS *SAMURAI*, I'VE SEEN *ALL* THE FACES OF DEATH. *YOU*? FOOL *ME*?
SAMURAI SWORDS KILL *SAMURAI*.
KILLING SCUM SUCH AS YOU WOULD FOUL OUR BLADES. ŌGAMI ITTŌ THOUGHT THE SAME.

YOU ARE A WORM, NOT WORTH CUTTING.
PATHETIC.

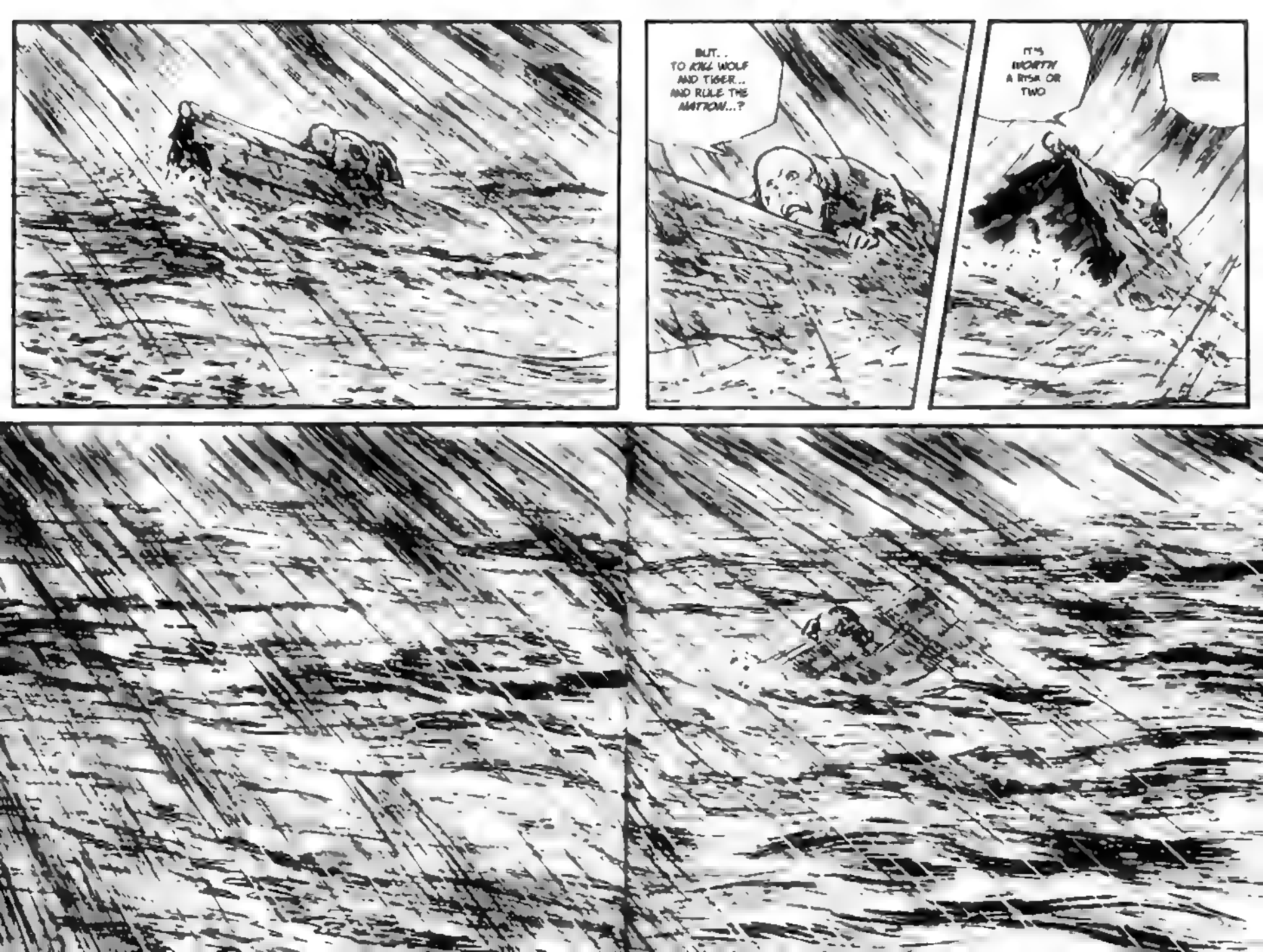
AHK. TOO PATHETIC TO KILL..
HRK..
NOT SAMURAI...
SCUM IS IT? A WORM...?! RRG!
D-DAMN YOU!
MOCK ME, WILL YOU?!
HEH HEH HEH HEH..
NO, YOU'RE RIGHT. IT'S TRUE!

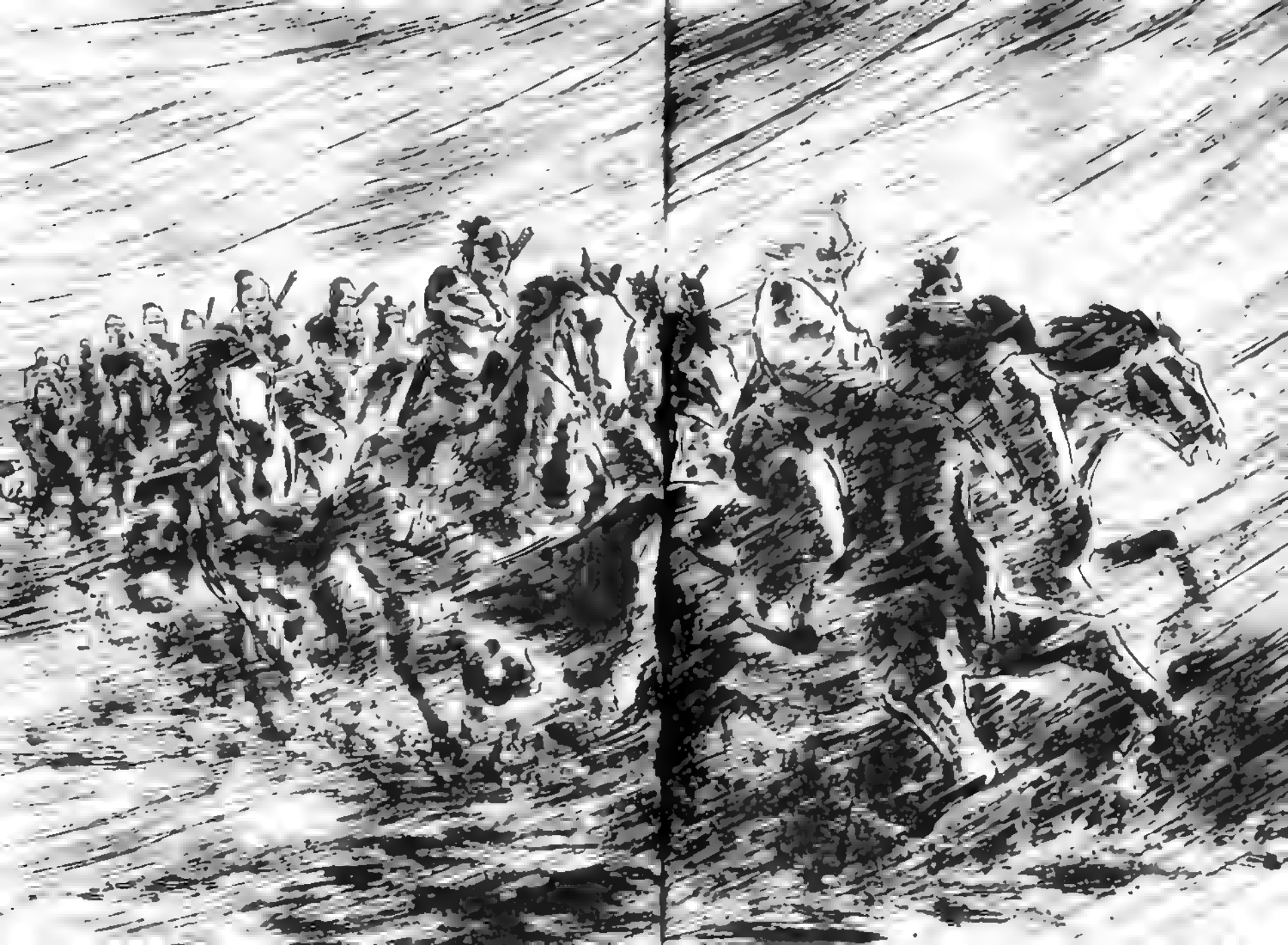
I'M NOT A BUSHI! NOT ONE BIT! HEH HEH... AND IT SAVED MY LIFE! HEE HEE!
I'D RATHER LIVE LIKE A WORM THAN DIE LIKE A DAMN BUSHI! BUSHI OR WORM, WE ONLY LIVE ONCE!
HEH HEH HEH..
HEH... HRK... HRK
OH...! POOR ME! HRK...SNFF...
NNG... SNFF
STILL... IT HURTS! WHY IS LIFE SO... PAINFUL?!
WAAAH! SNFF
BRRR! COLD!
POOR YAGYÜ! POOR LONE WOLF, FIGHTING IN THIS FREEZING MUCK.
I DON'T CARE IF THEY'RE BUSHI... A COLD, RAINSWEPT HACHÔ? HOW AWFUL.

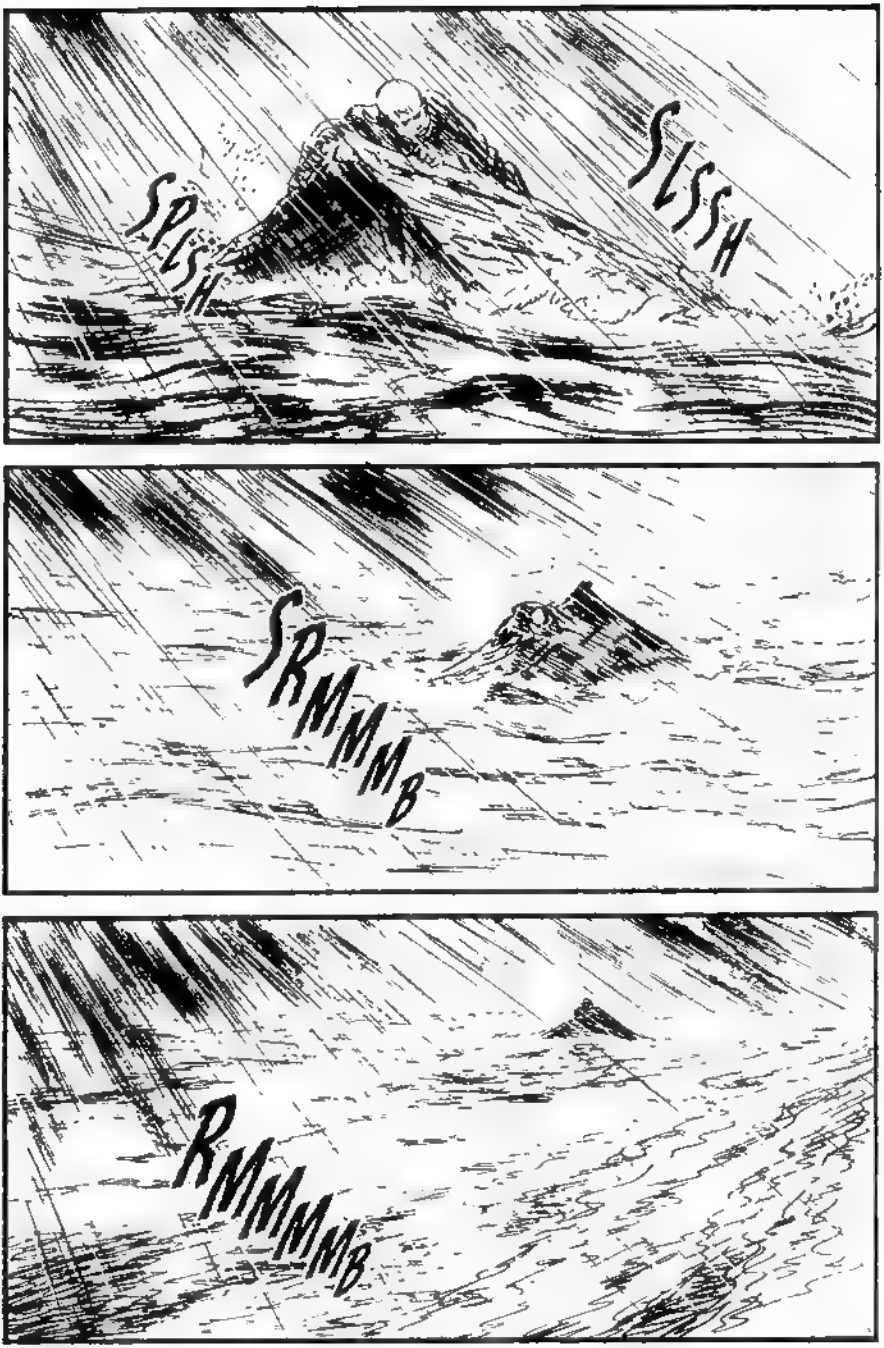
WAIT! WOLF AND TIGER, BY THE SAME RIVER?! A HUNTER'S DREAM!
OPEN THE GATE, AND THE HACHŌ FLOODS..!
YAHOO!
WAHOO!
AAH!
A CHANCE IN A MILLION! THEY'RE DOWNSTREAM FROM THE DAISUIMON!
YAH HAA!
IT'S IN THE SHUJI JING! "THE LAST FISTFUL OF SAND BRINGS DOWN THE SANDPILE!" THEY BUILT THEIR PILE . AND I'LL BRING IT DOWN!
YAHAHAH!
YEEHAW!
I'LL THROW THE LAST FISTFUL!
I'LL WASH EVERYTHING AWAY!
YOU'LL SEE! YOUR DREAMS CRUMBLED THE MOMENT YOU REFUSED TO KILL ME!
EAH HAH HAH!
RIGHT, YAGYŪ?! RIGHT, LONE WOLF?!
BWAH HAH HAH HAH!


STILL...
IF I MISS THEM.. I'M FINISHED!
AND IT'S AN HOUR AWAY ON FOOT ..
AH HAH! HEAVEN'S STILL WITH ME!

MOMMYYYY!!!
FWD
OOH. SCARY..!


BUT... TO KILL WOLF AND TIGER... AND RULE THE MATRON...?
IT'S WORTH A RYSA OR TWO
BRRR




SPLSH
SLSSH
SRMMMB
RMMMMB

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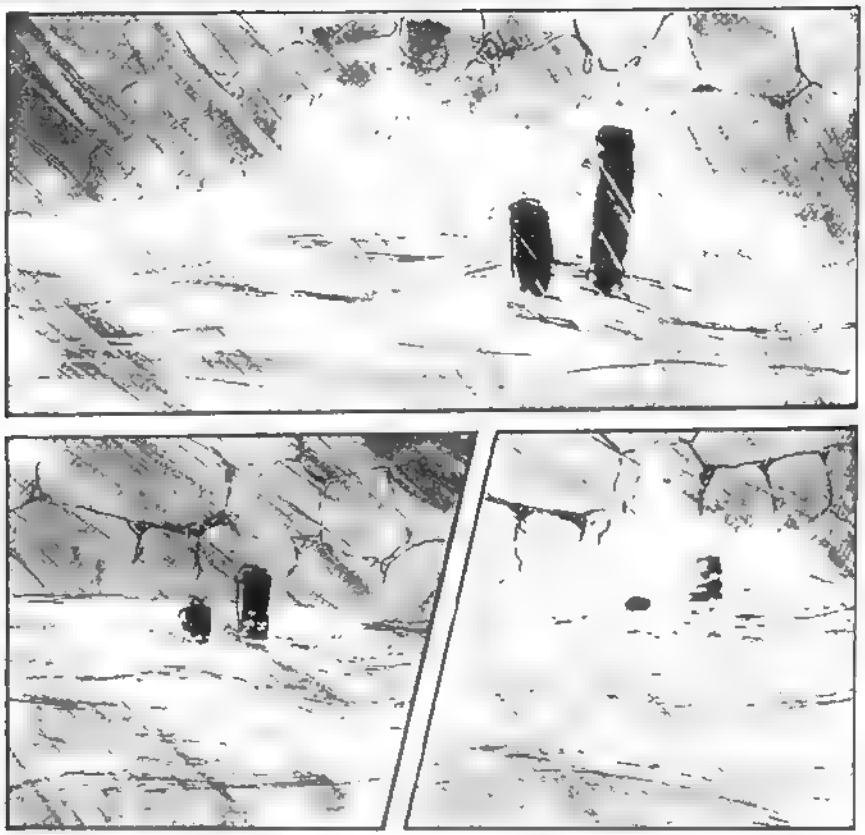
BECAUSE THE BOOK IS ALWAYS BETTER.

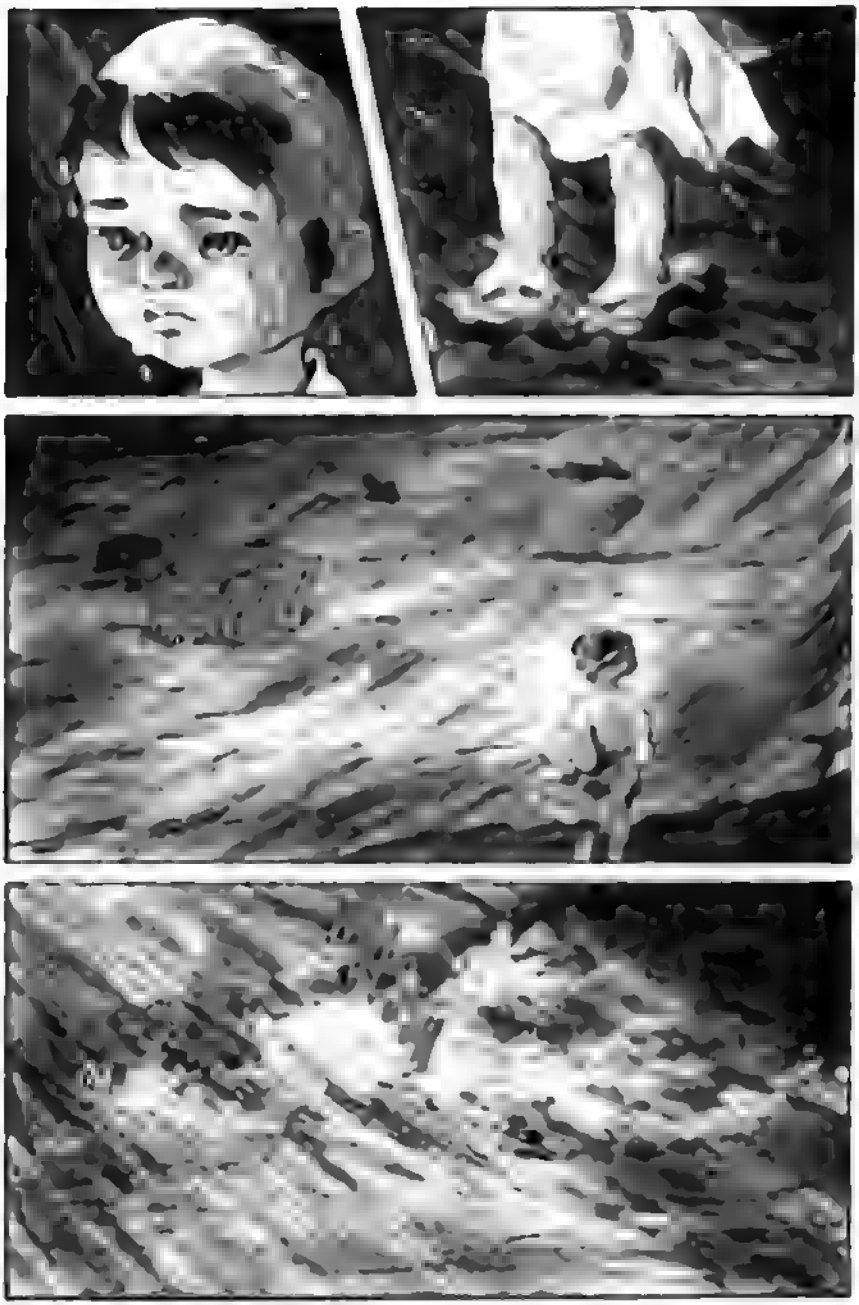
the hundred and ninth

Tōtekisai

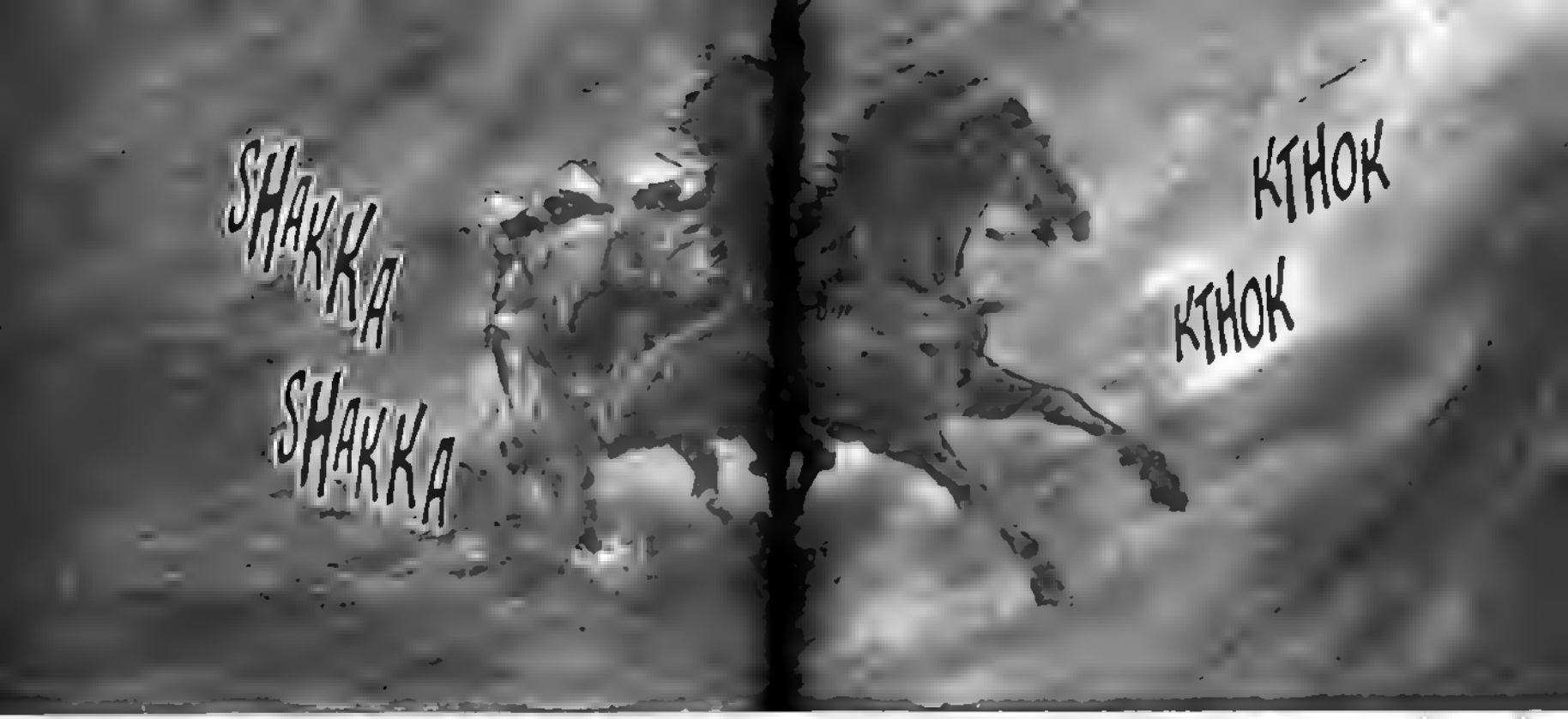
WHOOSH

FWHSSSSH
SPLSSH

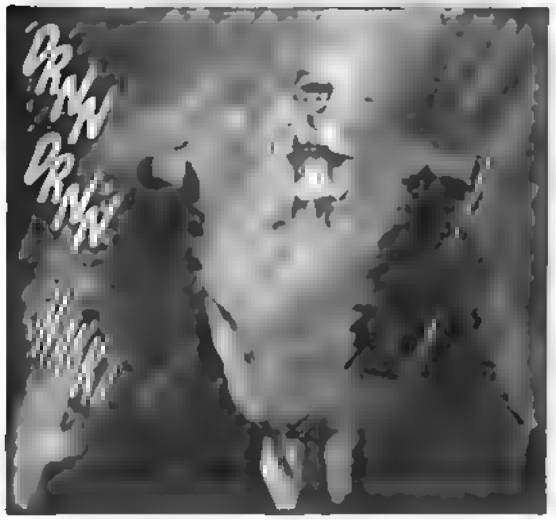




SHAKKA
DRNN
DRNN


SHAKKA
SHAKKA
KTHOK
KTHOK

DRNN
DRNN
DRNN

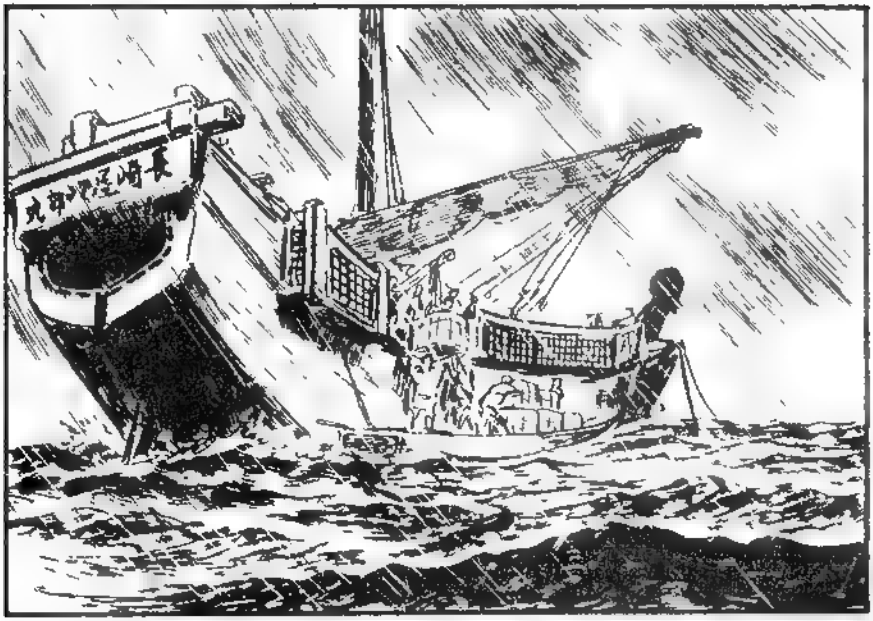

DRNN
DRNN

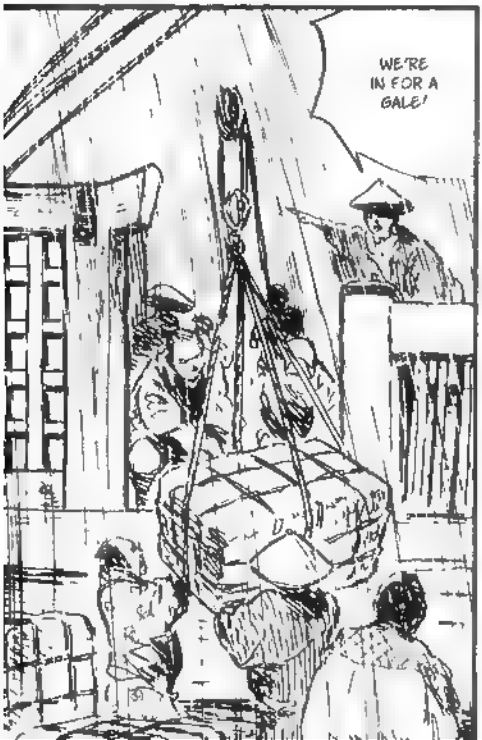
HRRR-FF!

DRENCHED! AREN'T YOU COLD?
SO BRAVE. .

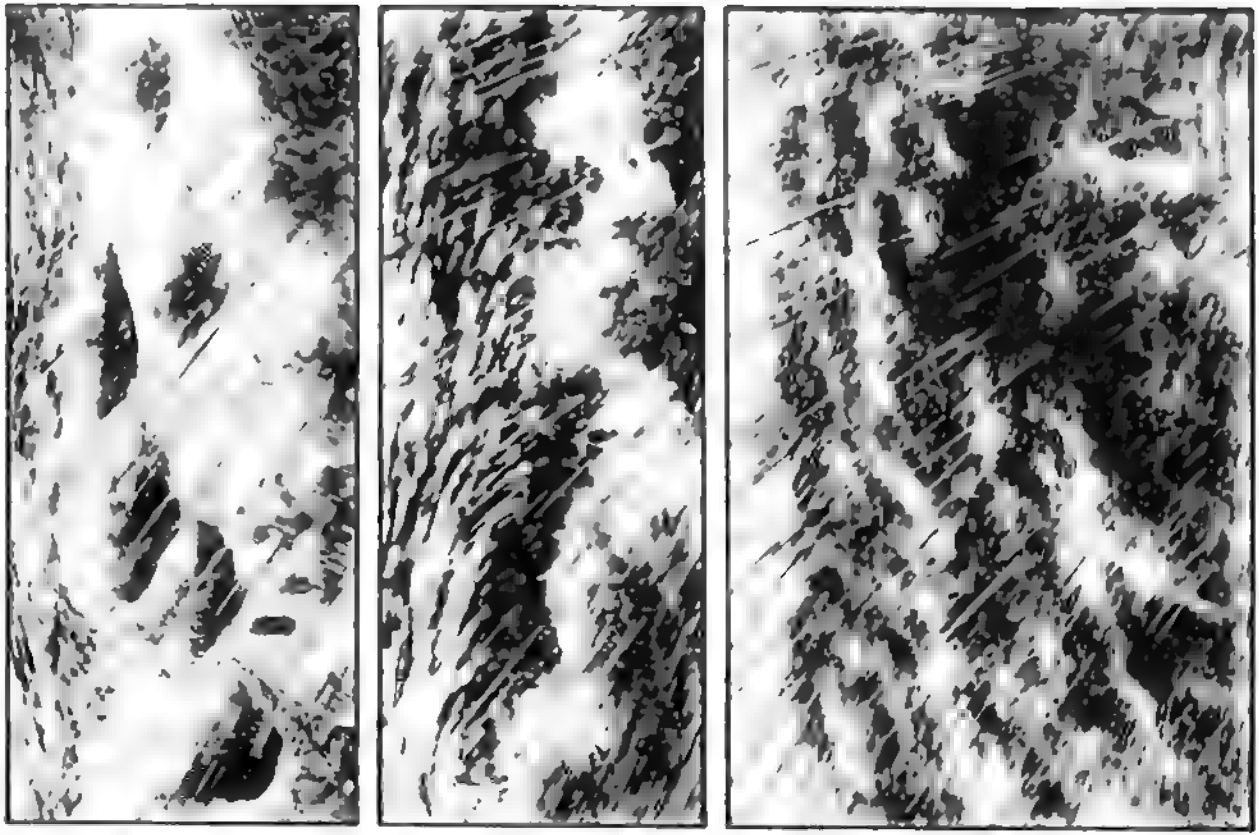
HEAD ON BACK, MEN. I'LL TRANSFER THE GOODS.
WHSSSH
FWHSH
THREE YEARS AGO..
FWHO
OOSH
ANOTHER WILD DAY

KII NORTHERN KYŪSHŪ
KUKI HARBOR




WE'RE IN FOR A GALE!

SPEED IT UP!



SHIP AHOY! GOZABUNE!
SIR! A GOZABUNE!
GOZABUNE, NOTHIN'! THET'S THE NAGASAKI BUGYÔ!
DON'T PANIC!

IT'S NOT A SEARCH! THEY'RE DODGING THE GALE!
NOW GET US LOADED!

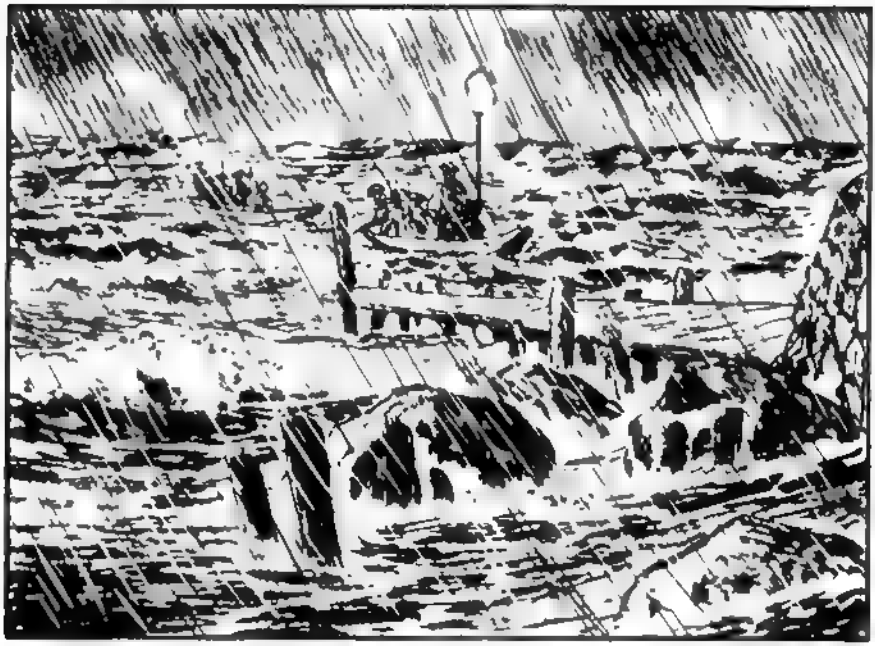
SPLASH

*NAGASAKI
BUGYŌSHO

W-WELCOME ABOARD
ARE YOU NAGASAKIYA ...?
I AM, SIR
ITAKURA GENMOTSU, YOUR NEW BUGYŌ. DON'T FORGET IT
NAGASAKIYA SHINSUKE

A FINE SHIP, NAGASAKIYA.
THANK YOU, SIR.
DEVIL'S *LUCK*, EH? ESCAPE A STORM, AND FIND *YOU*. HEH HEH HEH. .
?!
I'M *SEARCHING* THIS SHIP FOR *SMUGGLED GOODS!*
WITHOUT A WARRANT?! BUT THAT'S *ILLEGAL!*
HEH HEH. I'VE HAD MY *EYE* ON YOU, *WAY* BEFORE I MADE *BUGYŌ*.
BUT .. I HAVE NONE ABOARD!
HEH. I CAN *FAKE* ANY PROOF I NEED. I'M *BUGYŌ* NOW.

WHAT THE—
EDO'S SHORT OF MONEY
IF I SEIZE SOME SMUGGLER'S CARGO, THEY WON'T ASK QUESTIONS.
ARREST THE SMUGGLER!
RRNG...! DAMN YOU!!



WHO ARE YOU?!?
LONE WOLF ASSASSIN!
UH-WHAT...?
TH TH TH

AHHH!
KANG

GGHOK
NGAHH!

BASTARD!
MURDERER..!!

KKCH
TWSST
SHUH
SHUSSH

SHKRUSH
GHRK!
CHOK
GYAHH!
GYAHHH!

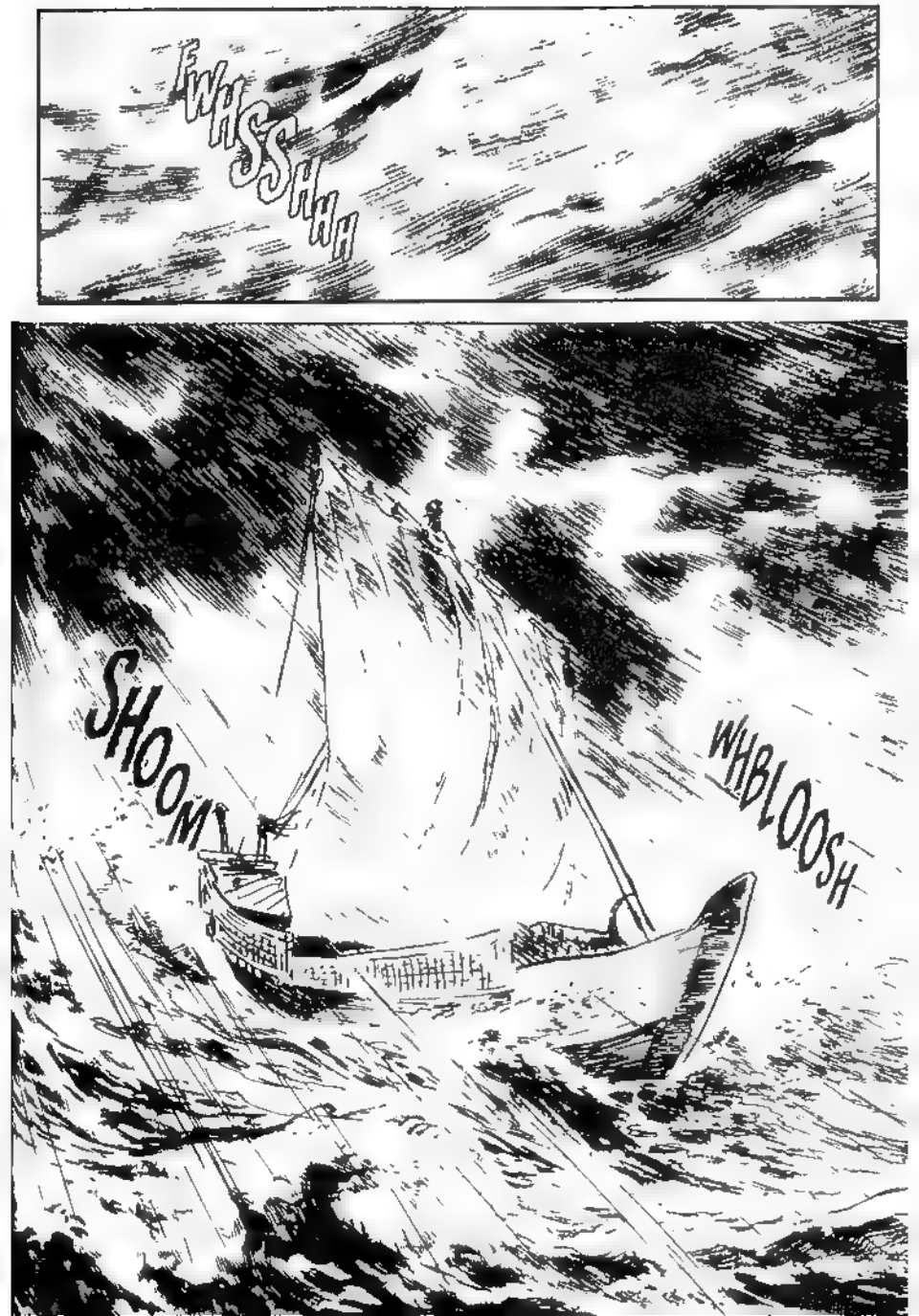
NNGHAH!
HAIEE!

FWAFF
SPLIT

WHEE
SUKK

TH... THANK YOU, SIR!
IT WAS FOR THE FAMILY OF ONE HE KILLED. NO THANKS NEEDED.
WAIT PLEASE WAIT!
THEY'LL BE HUNTING FOR YOU.
I'LL TAKE YOU ANYWHERE BY SEA.
NO. AS I SAID, YOU NEED NOT THANK ME.
NOT THANKS, SIR!

ENISHI! THE BOND OF A LIFETIME! IF YOU HADN'T BEEN HERE, MY LIFE AND FORTUNE WOULD BE LOST
I WANT TO HONOR IT YOU HAVE ENISHI FOR SAVING MY LIFE AND THAT MAN, TOO- ENISHI! THAT HE SHOULD SAIL HERE TODAY
ENISHI .
SLISH
SPLSH

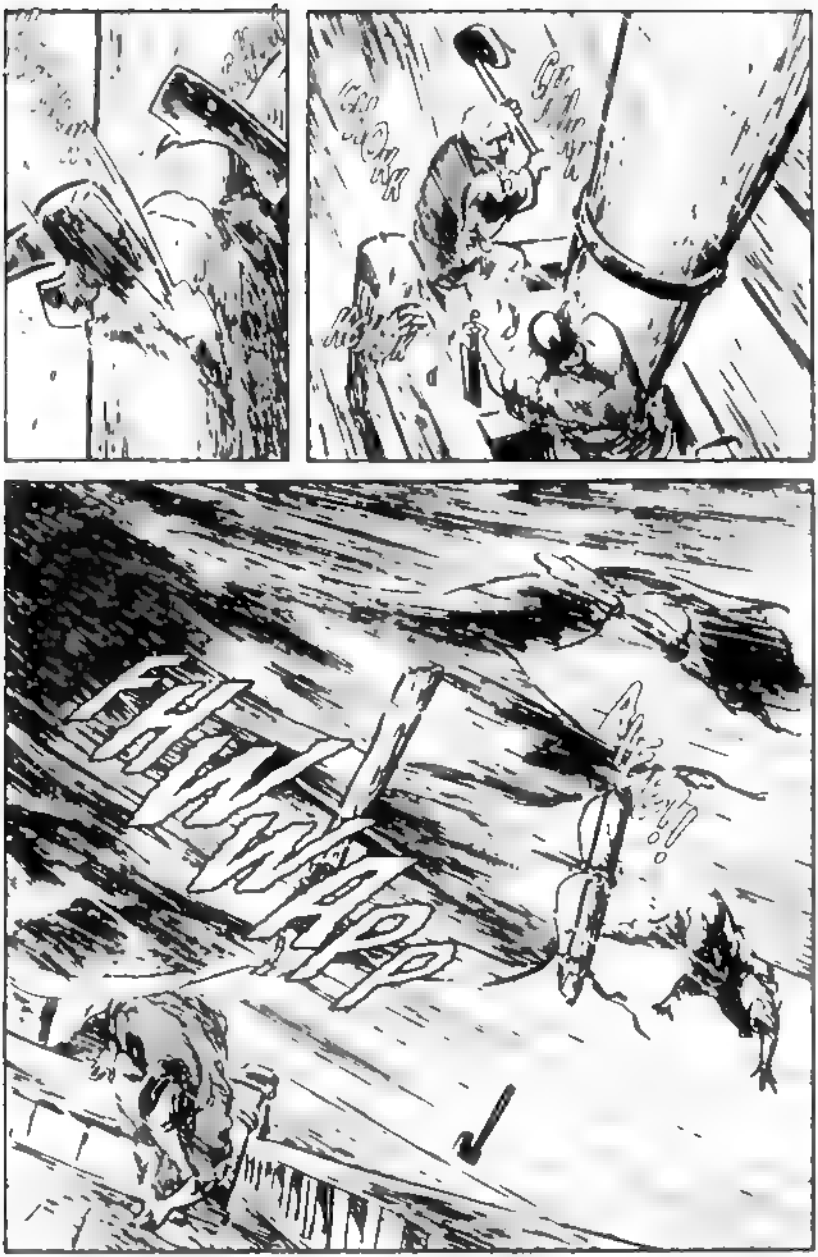

FWHSSHHH
SHOOM
WHBLOOSH

FWAPP
STRONG BOY HE SLEEPS THROUGH GALES.
WILL WE MAKE IT?
OF COURSE! FOR US THIS IS NOTHING.
I WOULD NOT HAVE INVITED YOU ABOARD OTHERWISE.

LOWER THE SAIL!
AAA
FWOOSH

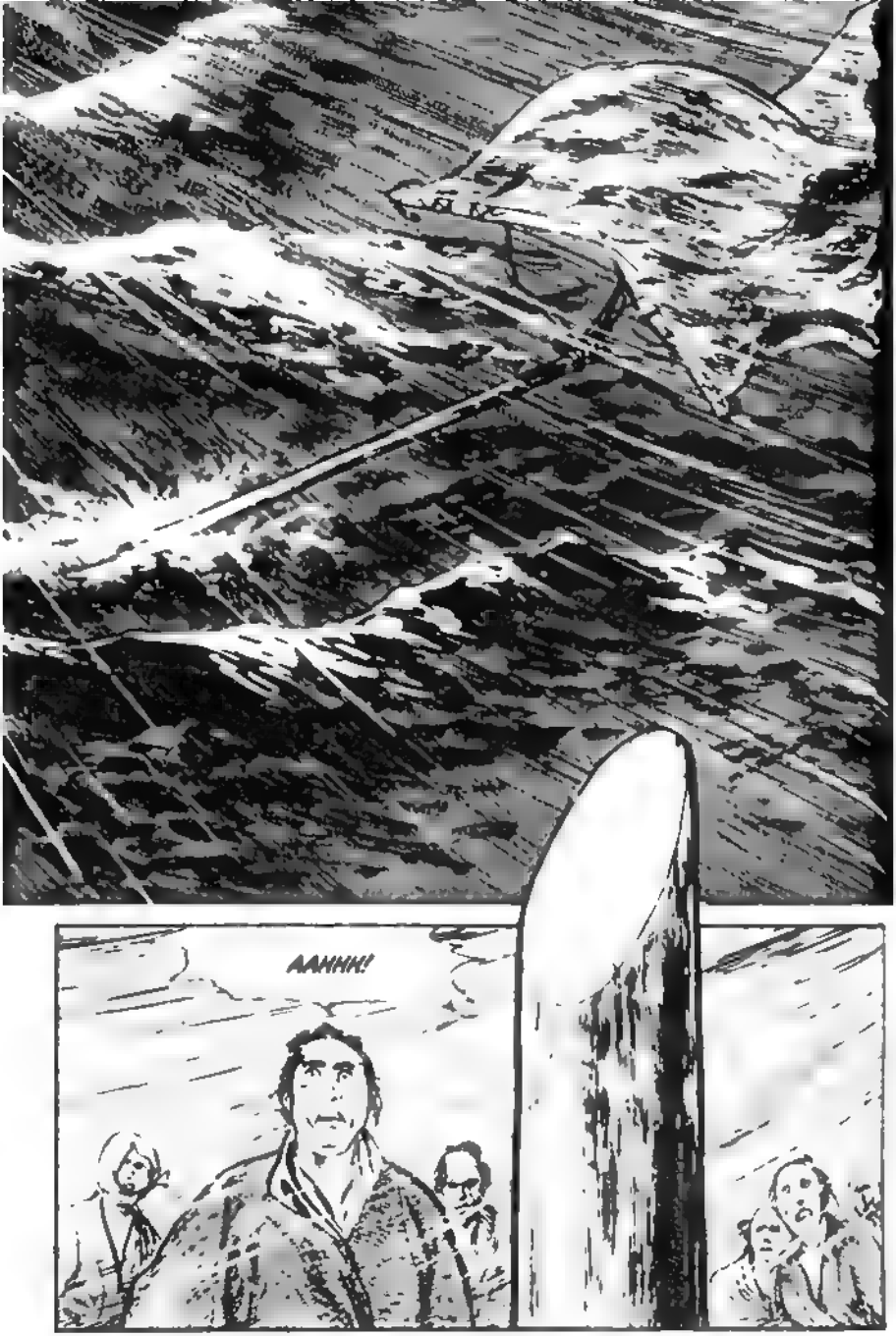
SHKOOM
SKRAK
KREEK
SKREEK
KRAK
KREEK
SKREEK
HFF HFF

FWHRAPP
DAMN!
CUT DOWN THE MAST!
AHHH


FLIP

FHWAP
SKREEK
FWWAP

HSHOK
FWSHHH


AAHHH!

WHOOOSH
S-SUCH SKILL! AND YOUR SWORD AN ENTIRE MAST?!
I THOUGHT SO
DŌTA-NUKI.

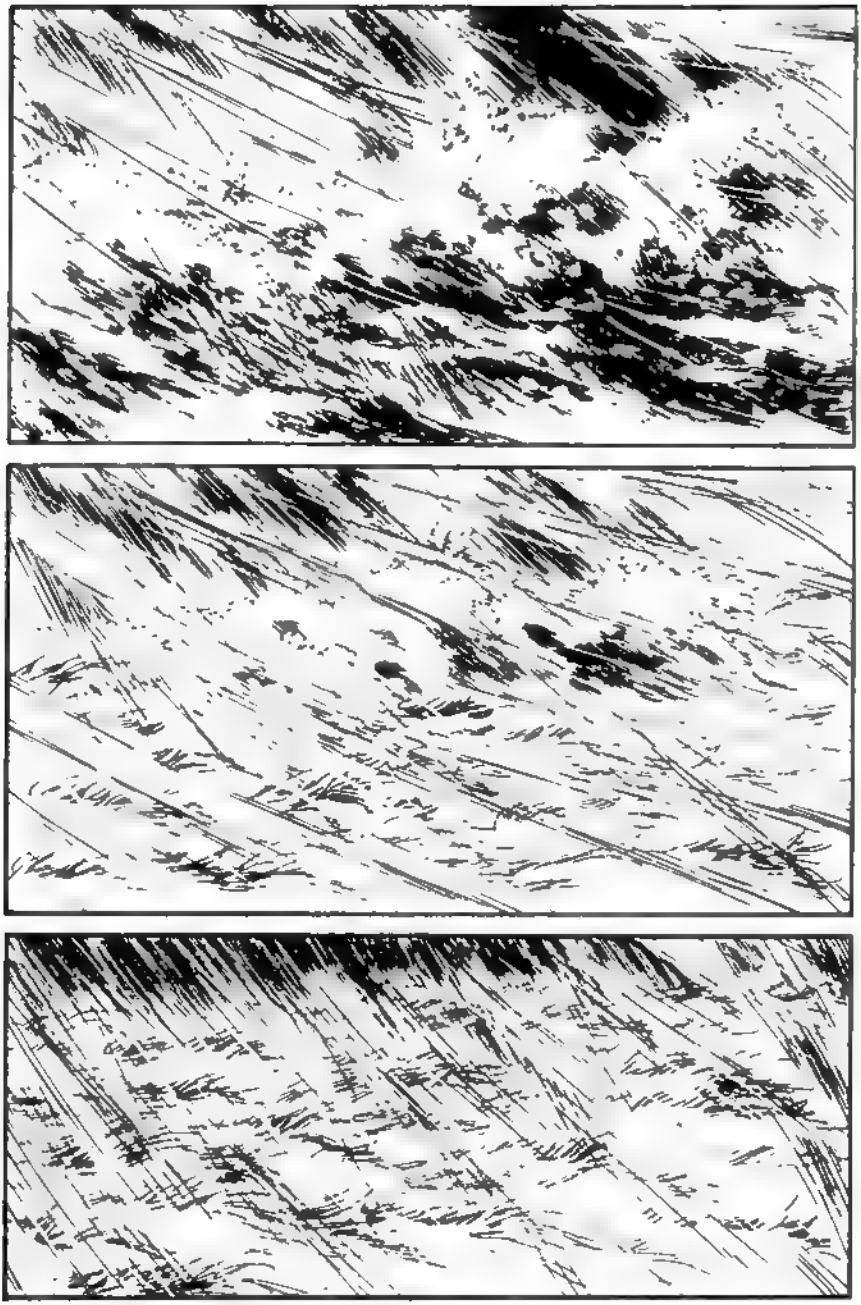
ROCKS
AHEAD

HARD APORT!
SHE WON'T ANSWER, CAPTAIN!
IT LOOKS LIKE THE SAID, NAGASAKIYA..
OF OUR ENISHI.
NON-SENSE!
UNTIL NOW, YOUR ENISHI. NOW, FOR MINE!
TWO STRONG ENISHI! UNSTOPPABLE..!
GET THE TŌTEKIRAI!

WHAT'S THAT?
TŌTEKIRA!! A FOREIGN EXPLOSIVE!
ONE!
TWO!
THREE!
FOUR!
FIVE!

SIX!
FWHAMM
WHOOM

ONE, TWO, THREE!
FOUR, FIVE!
SIX!
WHKOOM



FWHHSSH
WSSHH

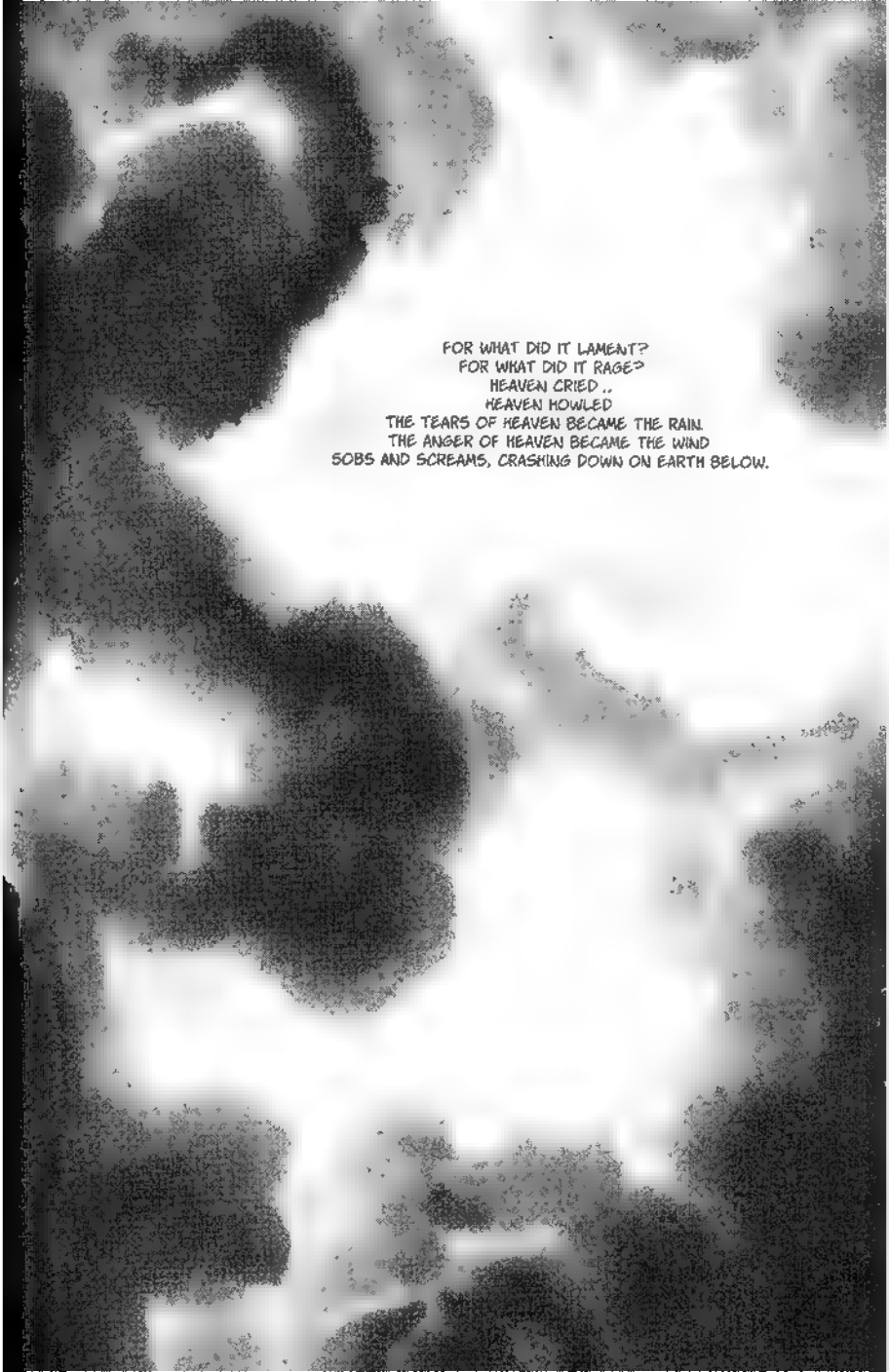
PLEASE CHECK.

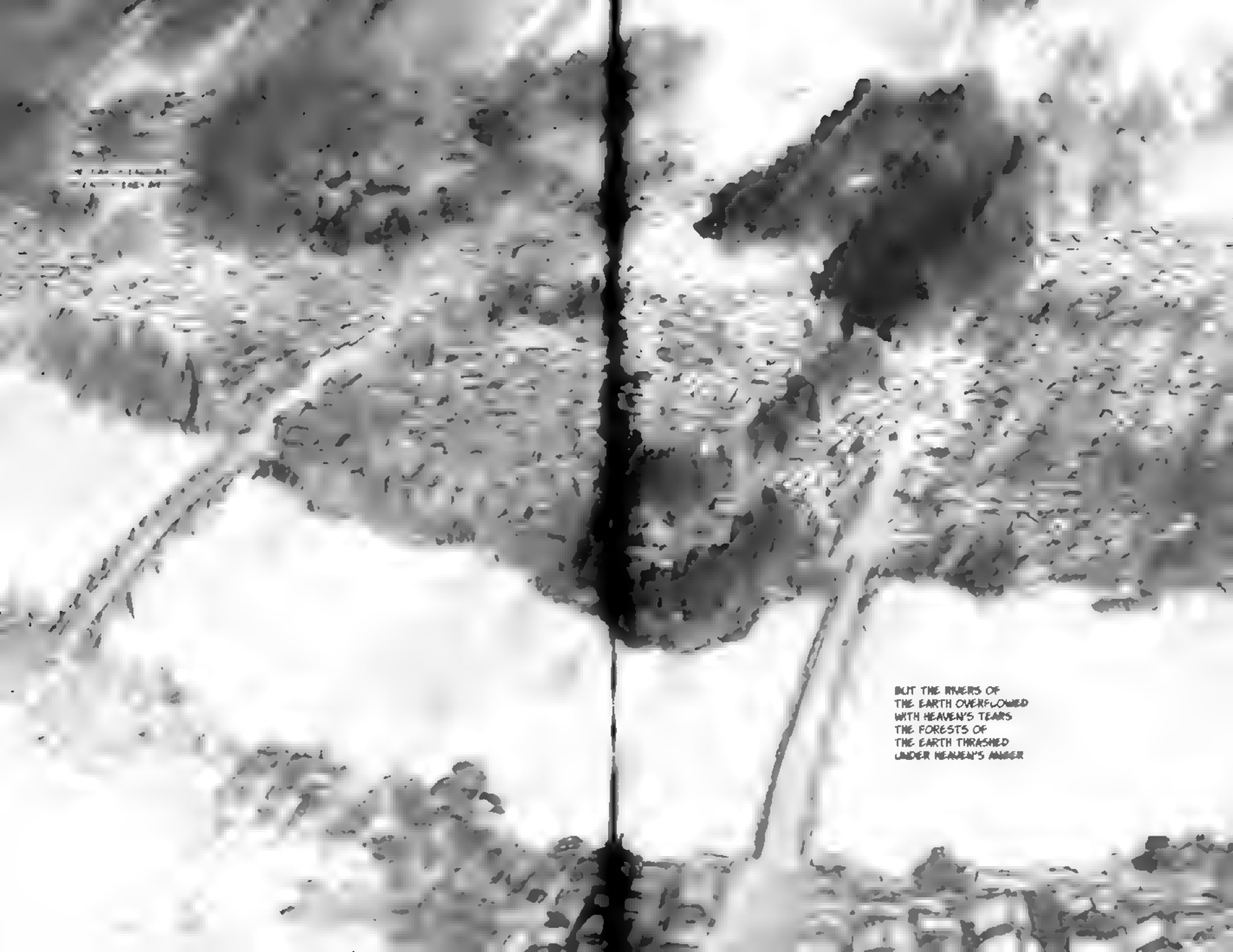
MY THANKS.
YOUR ENISHI, MY ENISHI .. AND THIS BOY'S ENISHI . ALL THREE, IN THESE TŌTEKIRAI!
USE THEM! WIN VICTORY! I'LL PRAY FOR YOU!
FAREWELL, NAGASAKIYA ANY MINUTE NOW..
. THE YAGYŪ WILL COME.

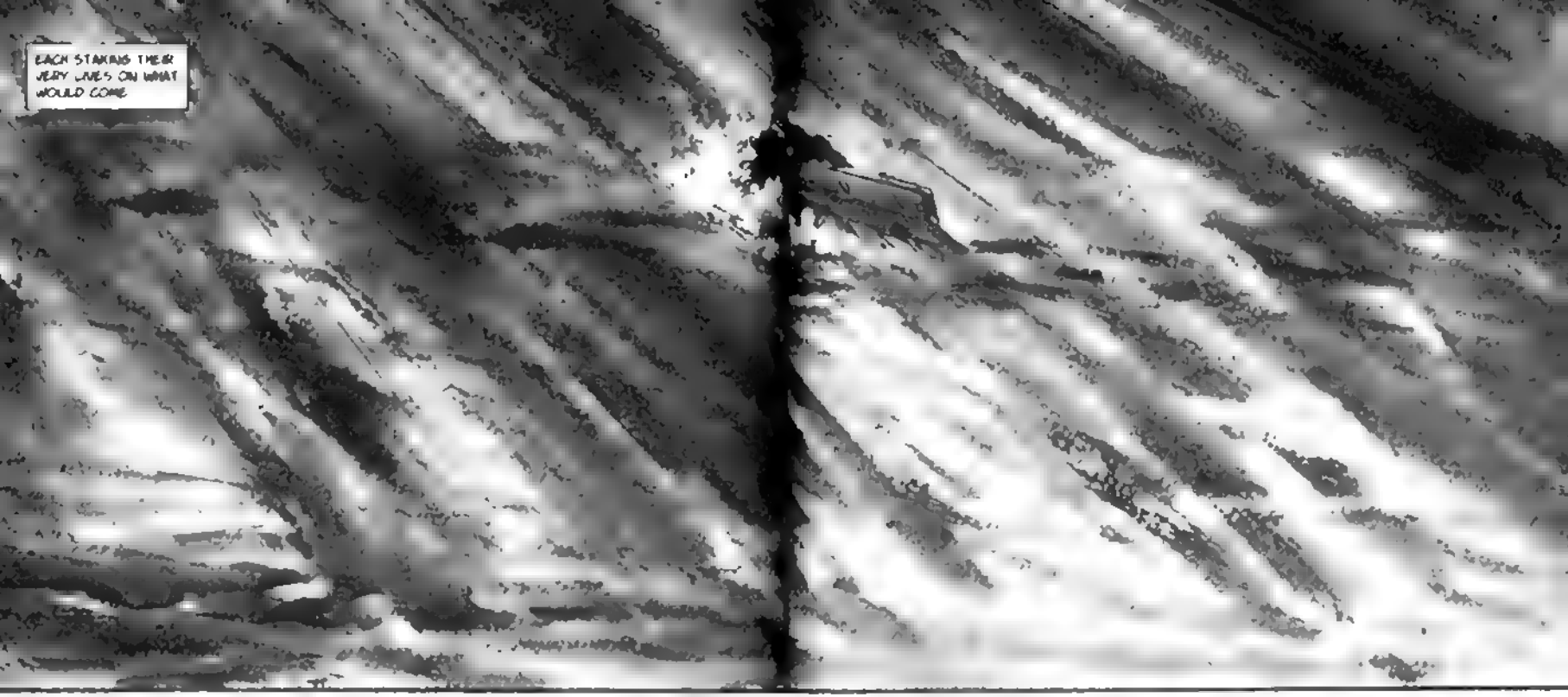
#MANGAPROJECT

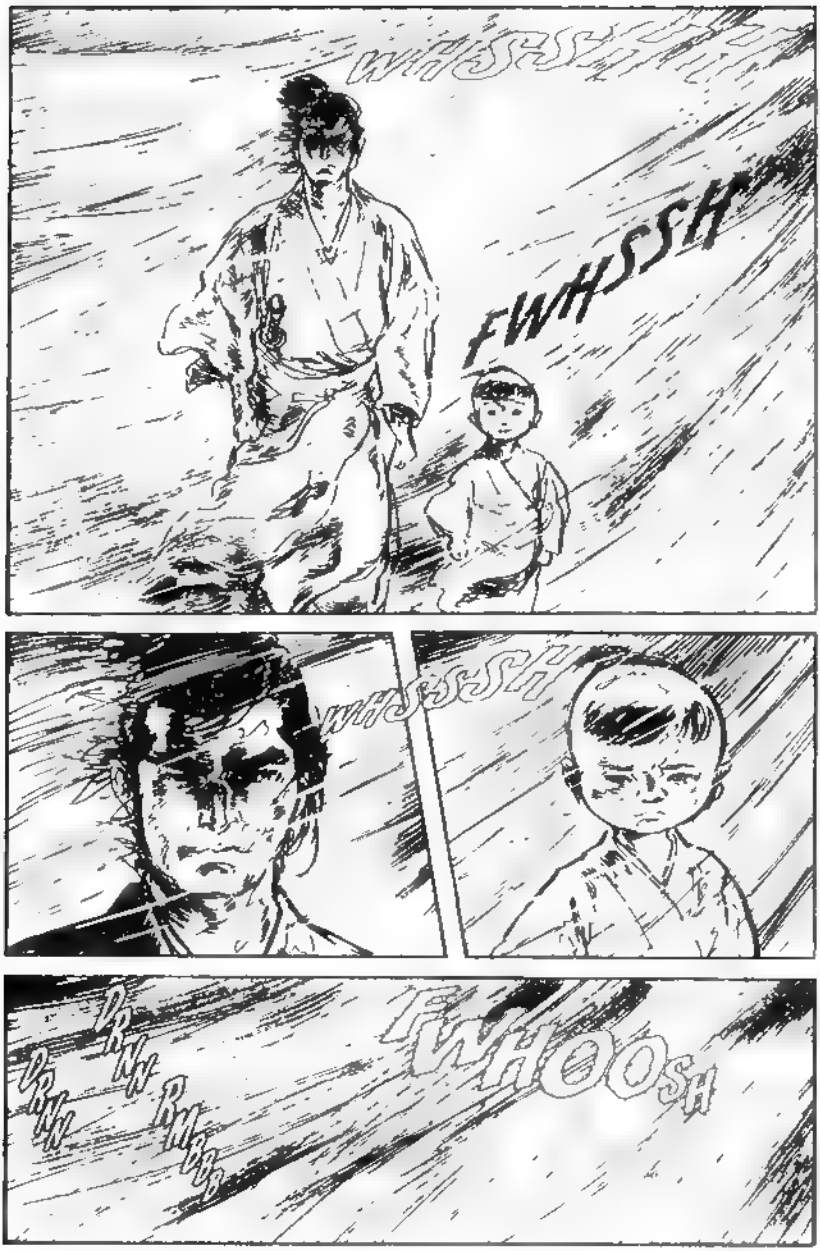
the hundred and tenth

Heaven and Earth


FOR WHAT DID IT LAMENT?
FOR WHAT DID IT RAGE?
HEAVEN CRIED ..
HEAVEN HOWLED
THE TEARS OF HEAVEN BECAME THE RAIN.
THE ANGER OF HEAVEN BECAME THE WIND
SOBS AND SCREAMS, CRASHING DOWN ON EARTH BELOW.


BUT THE RIVERS OF
THE EARTH OVERFLOWED
WITH HEAVEN'S TEARS
THE FORESTS OF
THE EARTH THRASHED
UNDER HEAVEN'S ANGER


EACH STAKING THEIR VERY LIVES ON WHAT WOULD COME


WHSSSH
FWHSSH
WHSSSH
FWHOOSH

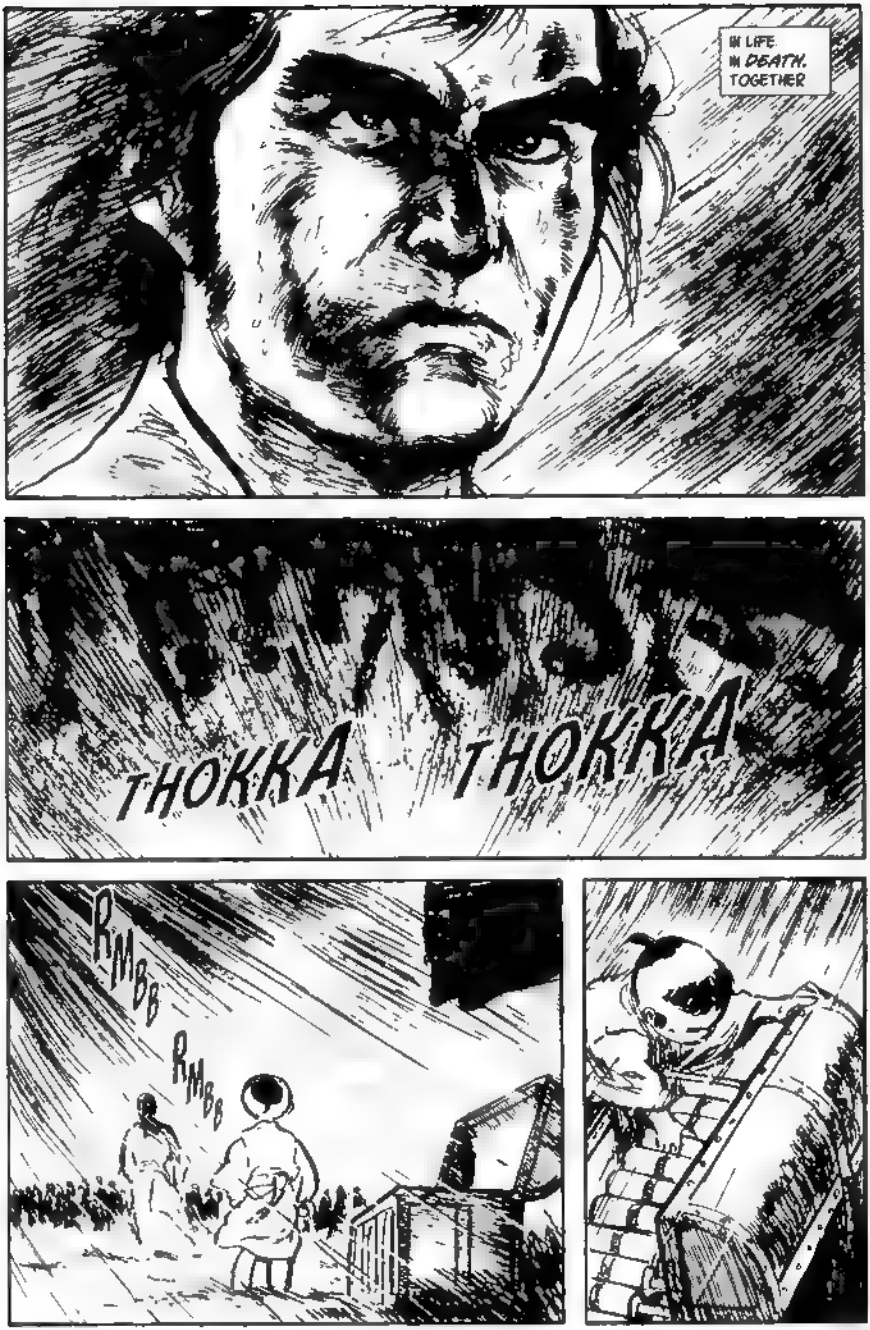
DRNN DRNN
RMBBB
DRNN DRNN
FATHER AND SON,
THEY BOTH KNEW.
AT LAST. AT LAST
THEIR TIME HAD COME.
HAD THEY LIVED
FOR THIS MOMENT?
OR HAD THEY NEEDED
THIS MOMENT IN
ORDER TO LIVE?

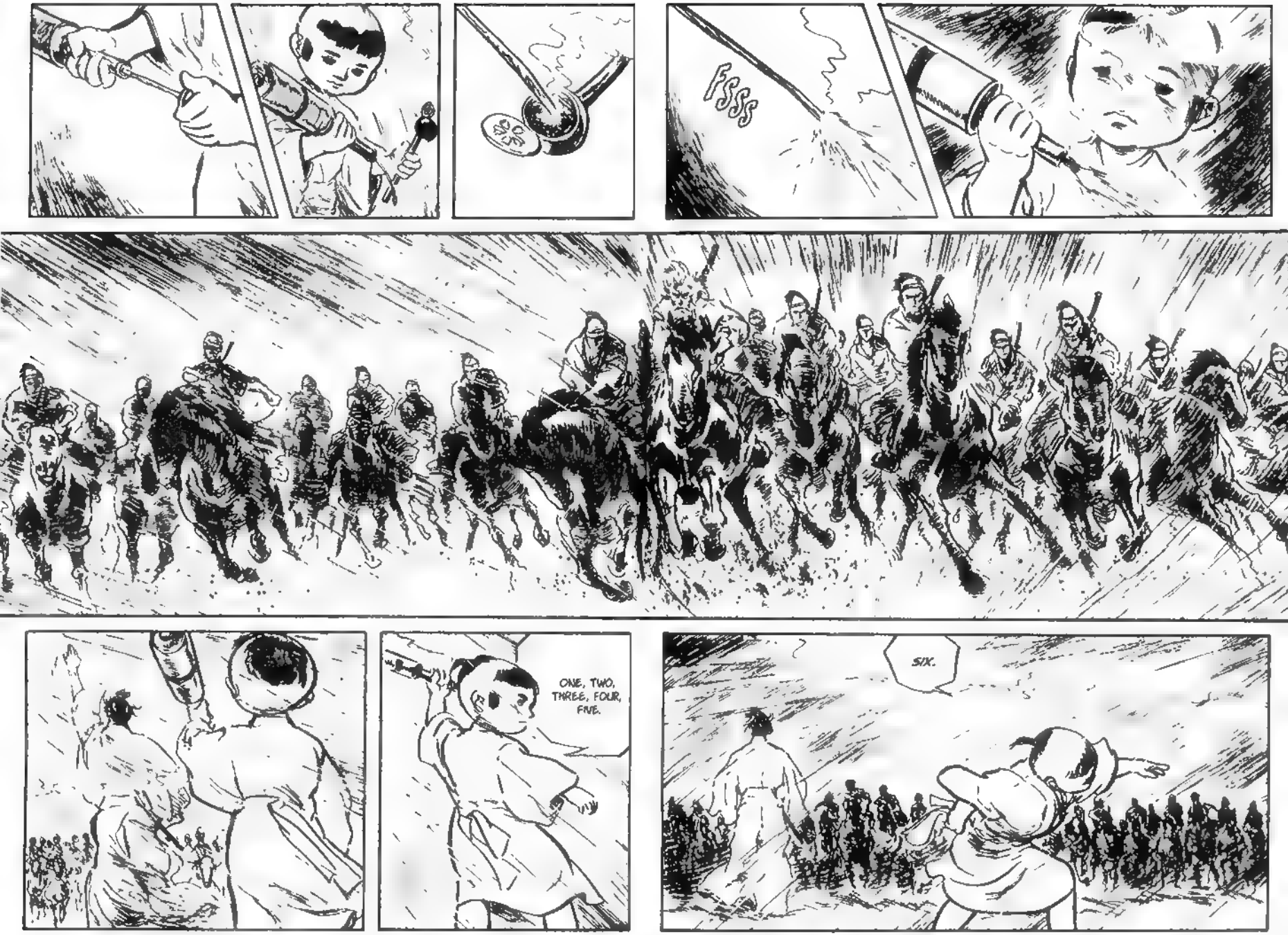
YET ONE THING
THEY KNEW—
THIS WAS
THEIR GOAL.

THIS WAS THE
MOMENT THAT
HAD BROUGHT
THEM THROUGH
MENFUMADŌ

IT WAS TIME *THEIR* TIME AND NOW THAT IT PRESSED IN UPON THEM, FATHER AND SON EXCHANGED NO WORDS
DRN DRN
RMMBBB
TRIUMPHING AGAINST ALL ODDS ENDURING ALL SUFFERING, THEY HAD COME THROUGH *MEIFUMADŌ* TO THE DIVIDE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH. THEY HAD NO NEED OF WORDS

THEY NEEDED ONLY EACH OTHER HERE, AT THE JUNCTION OF THE SIX PATHS AND THE FOUR LIVES. LIVING TOGETHER DYING TOGETHER
SUCH WAS THEIR LOVE, LOVE BETWEEN FATHER AND SON, SURPASSING ALL OTHER BONDS OF PARENT AND CHILD
GRRRR GRRRR


IN LIFE
IN DEATH.
TOGETHER
THOKKA THOKKA
RMBB
RMBB


FSSS
ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR, FIVE.
SIX.

WHOOOM

BRUUUEE
WHEEN
HRNEF

WHSSSSH
FWHSSH
YOU'VE AGED, RETSUDÔ.
YOUR DOING.

I COMMEND YOU FOR COMING N FUNERAL CLOTHES BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW WE GATHERED OUR LAST FORCES FOR WAR?

KI.
KI.
IS IT ?
I THOUGHT YOU'D WAIT, EXPOSE THE YAGYŪ LETTER WHEN THE DAIMYŌ COME IN APRIL
SHOCK THE NATION. DRIVE US AGAINST THE WALL. THEN HAVE YOUR FINAL BATTLE.

HEH... IT SEEMS IT DEFEATED YOU, EH?
SO YOU RUSHED HERE.
I PLACED SILKWORMS ON YOUR LETTER, RETSUDŌ.
HRK!

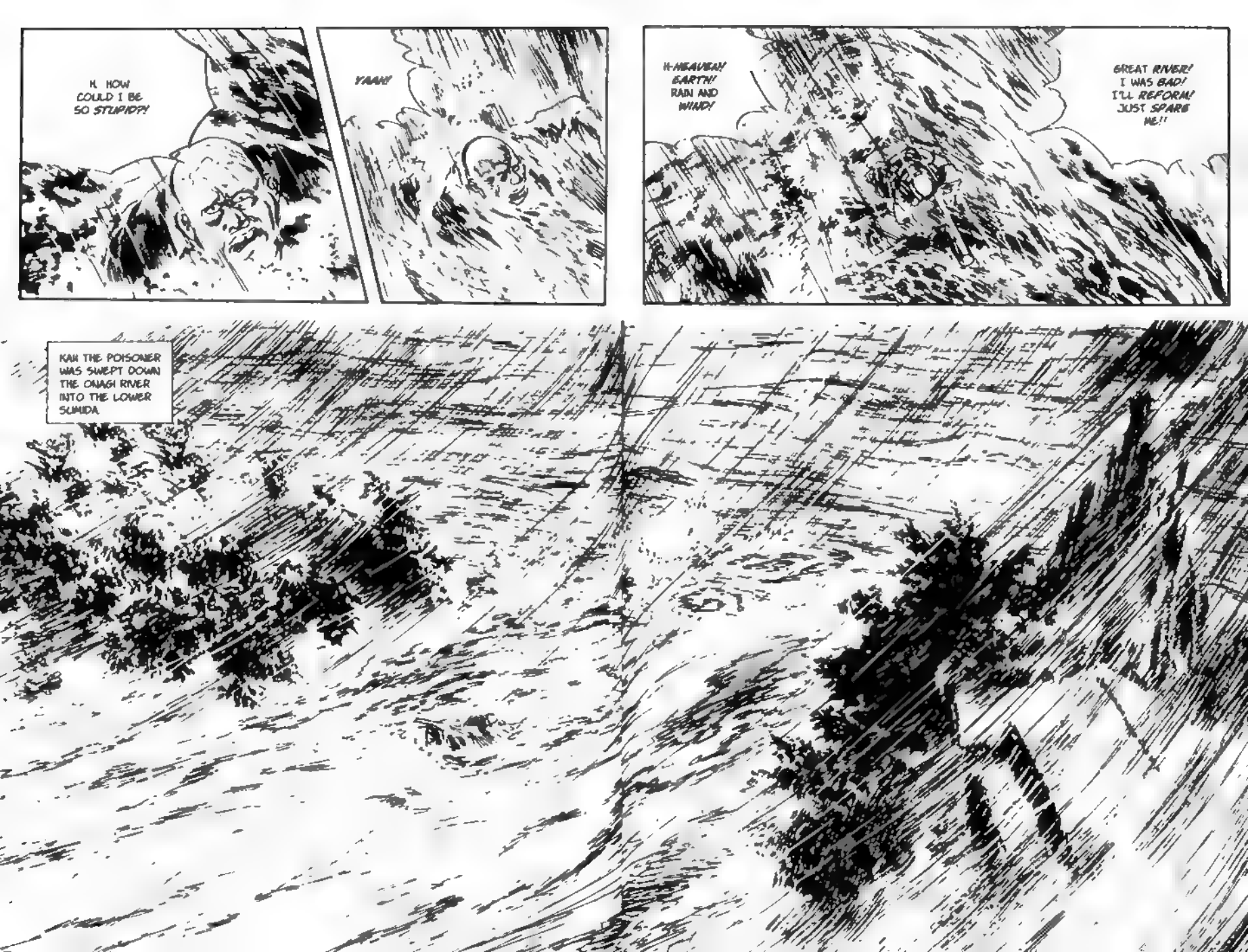
HMM. . . YOU'RE FORMIDABLE, ŌGAMI ITTŌ.
THEN... WHY?!
OUR HATRED IS PERSONAL. BEST TO KEEP IT THAT WAY
I WON'T DENY IT— WHEN I STOLE THE LETTER, I WANTED TO EXPOSE YOU.
BUT WALKING IN MEIFUMADŌ. . . I KILLED MANY PEOPLE. TURNED MEANINGFUL LIVES INTO MEANINGLESS DEATH.
BANDITS. NO MORE. MAKAI.
WHSSSSS!
FOUR YEARS?
INDEED. FOUR YEARS.

MEANING-LESS?
TO ALL BUT US.
WHSSSSSH!
EXPLOSIVES.
TŌTEKIRAI! IMPERVIOUS TO WATER, AND ENOUGH TO DEFEAT A THOUSAND MEN.

YOU BRING THESE IN CASE SUIŌ-RYŪ LOSES?
WHERE'S YOUR BUSHI PRIDE?! PATHETIC!
WRONG!
HOW SO?!
THEY'RE FOR DAIGORO FOR THIS DAY
WHAT?!
WILL YOU KILL HIM, RETSUDŌ .?!
YOU AND HE ARE ONE HE DIES!
THEN HOW WILL HE FIGHT?
CAN A FOUR-YEAR-OLD BATTLE THE YAGYŪ, FEARED THROUGHOUT JAPAN?
HRM.

I COULD HAVE TAUGHT HIM THE WARRIOR ARTS FROM THE DAY HE WAS BORN, AND HE STILL WOULDN'T STAND A CHANCE. YET FATE COMMANDS THAT HE FIGHT BESIDE ME! IF HE'S ONLY GOING TO HINDER OUR FINAL BATTLE, WHY SHOULD HE HAVE LIVED?
HE CAN'T FIGHT YOU AS A BUSHI. SO I USED THE ASSASSIN'S GOLD OF MEIFUMADŌ TO BUY HIM TŌTEKIRA!!
FOR THIS FINAL DAY! COWARDLY ...?!
NOT SHIDŌ ...?!
FORGIVE ME.
THEN LET HIM USE THEM. BUT WE FIGHT YOU FIRST!
AND YOU. YOU THREW THAT TO SHOW US.
SO WE'D KNOW WHAT WEAPON WE FACED. YOU'RE A WORTHY FOE, ŌGAMI DAIGORO!

YEOWWHH!
RMMB
SPLSSH
OH GOD!
AIEEE!
H-HELLLLP!
I'M GONNA DIE!!
YAGYŪ? LONE WOLF..? I DON'T CARE! RULE THE NATION! FORGET IT!
JUST LET ME LIVE! I DON'T WANNA DIE!
WAAAH!
SAVE ME!
I I ADM.T IT!! I WAS ARROGANT!!
HEEEK!
I CAN'T EVEN SWIM!


H. HOW COULD I BE SO STUPID?!
YAAH!
H-HEAVEN! EARTH! RAIN AND WIND!
GREAT RIVER! I WAS BAD! I'LL REFORM! JUST SPARE ME!!
KAN THE POISONER WAS SWEPT DOWN THE ONAGI RIVER INTO THE LOWER SUMIDA

HIS GOAL HAD BEEN THE TATSUMI WATERGATE BUILT NEAR THE SUMIDA'S MOUTH TO CONTROL WATER LEVELS AT HIGH TIDE. HE'D PLANNED TO OPEN THE GATES AND FLOOD FUKAGAWA, DROWNING LONE WOLF AND THE YAKUZA AS THEY FOUGHT
WAAAH! HELLPP!
THAT'S WHY HE'D LEAPED ONTO THE ROOF OF THIS TINY SHACK. DRIFTING BY ON THE FLOOD IT HAD BEEN THE BRAVEST ACT OF HIS LIFE. BUT NOW
RMBBBBB

ALL PLANS WERE FORGOTTEN. YAGYŪ AND LONE WOLF, VANISHED FROM HIS MIND LIKE MIST ALL THAT REMAINED HIS DESPERATE ATTACHMENT TO LIFE.
AAAAAAH!
I WAS PATHETIC
HELLP!!
MOMMYYY!
I'M GONNA DIE!

ŌGAMI ITTŌ! BEHOLD THE YAGYŪ SWORDS!
THE MASSIVE BLADES OF THE ŌURA YAGYŪ ARE THE FIERCE YAGYŪ TWO-HAND BLADES
AND THE SWORD WHEEL STRONGEST OF ALL!
SUIŌ-RYU
NOTHING!

ATTACK!
TH
TH
THD
THD
HWD
HWD
HWD

HYAHHH!
SKUSH

SSHOK

I'VE BEAT THEM BEFORE!

THEY WON'T WORK ON ME!

RYAAHH!

chok

#MANGAPROJECT

SHARK

THD
THD
THD
THD

THD
THD
THD
THD

KANGG
SPANG
KANGG
TANGG

SKCH
SHHK
SKUSH
HRNG...!

WHOOOSH
WHSSSS

SHHSS

SSHHSSS

FWHSSH

FWSSSH
FWHHSH
KRAK
SHKK
WHOOSH

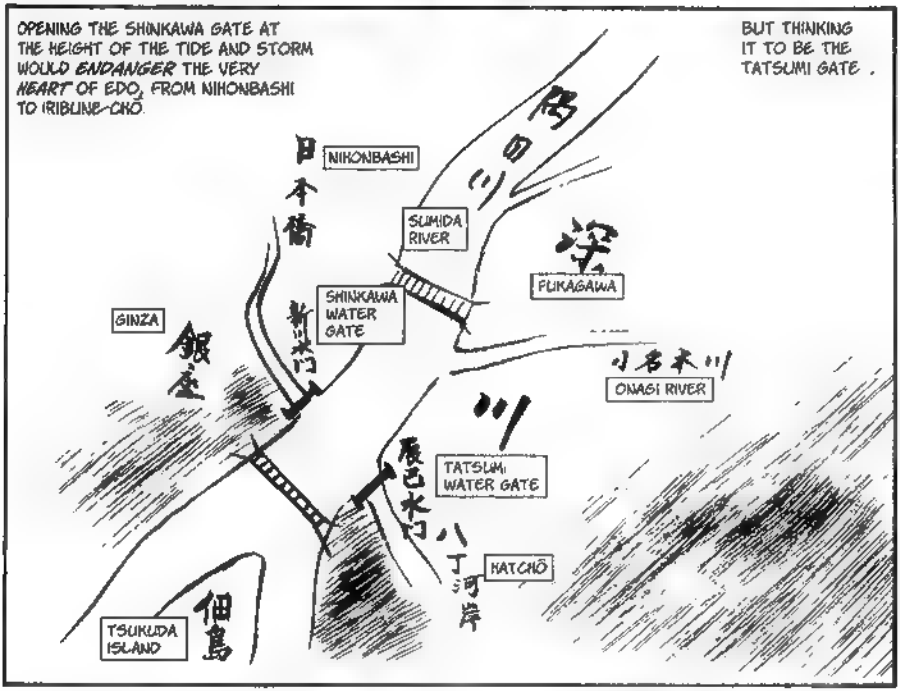
SHRMMM!
EEYAHHH!!

HYAHH!!
WHAM
SPLAK
F-EYAA!!

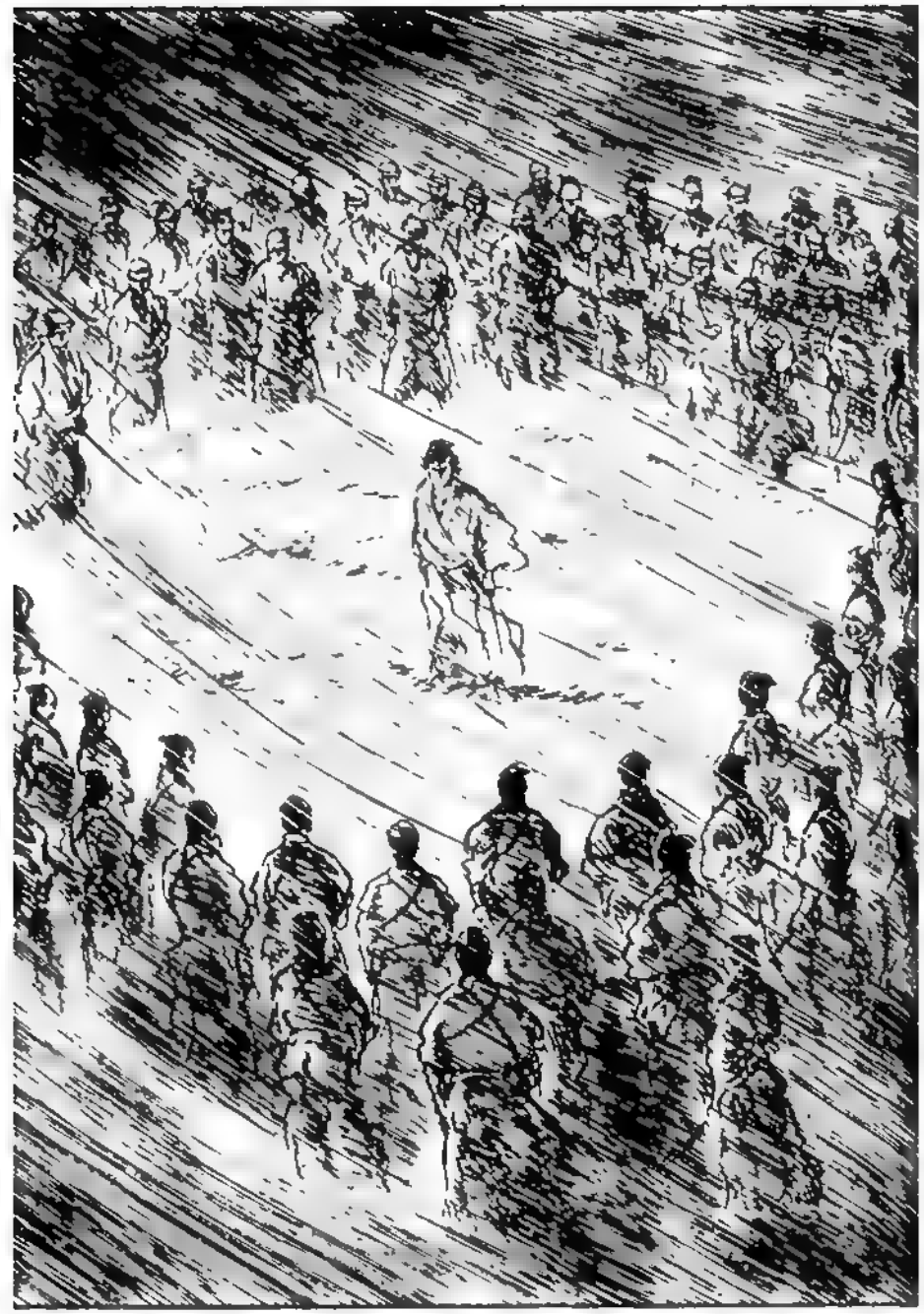
WHFF I MADE IT!
WAIT ! IT'S THE WATER GATE?!
THE WATER GATE!!
HEH HEH HEH WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW!
THE GODS STILL LOVE ME!
HA, HA... GYAHH HAH HAH!
BWA HA HA HA HA

REST IN PEACE, YOU BASTARDS!
FROM NOW ON, IT'S A KUCHIYAKU WORLD! MY WORLD!!
YOUR BATTLEFIELD'S THE BOTTOM OF A LAKE!

TOSSING AND TURNING IN THE CURRENT, KAII HAD LOST ALL SENSE OF DIRECTION. HE DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS NOW ON THE *OPPOSITE* SHORE, AT THE *SHINKAWA* WATER GATE.
SKREEK

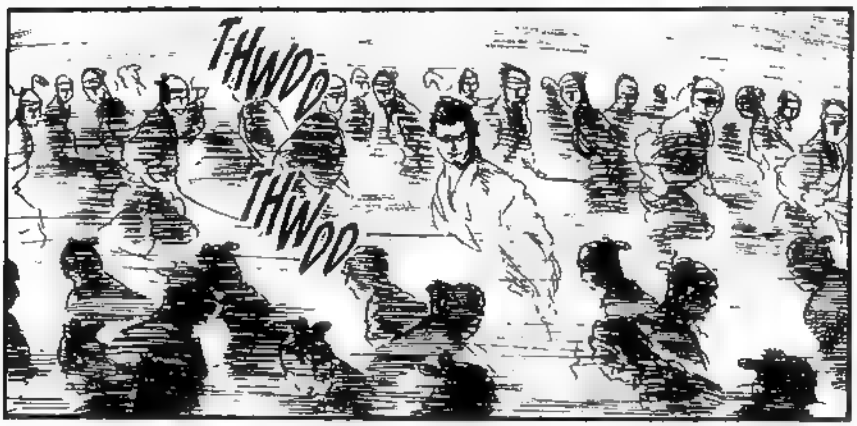

OPENING THE SHINKAWA GATE AT THE HEIGHT OF THE TIDE AND STORM WOULD *ENDANGER* THE VERY *HEART* OF EDO, FROM NIHONBASHI TO IRIBUNE-CHŌ.
BUT THINKING IT TO BE THE TATSUMI GATE .
NIHONBASHI
SUMIDA RIVER
FUKAGAWA
SHINKAWA WATER GATE
GINZA
ONAGI RIVER
TATSUMI WATER GATE
KAYACHŌ
TSUKUDA ISLAND

...KAII LABORED TO TURN THE MIGHTY CAPSTAN.
SKREEK
HEE HEE HEE!!



WHSSSH
WHOOSH

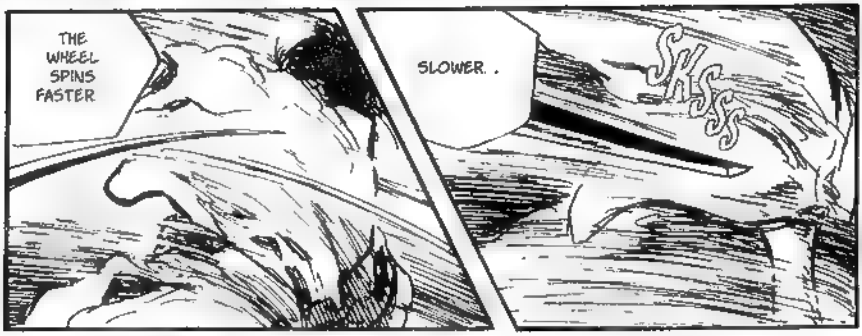
THOO
THOO
THOO

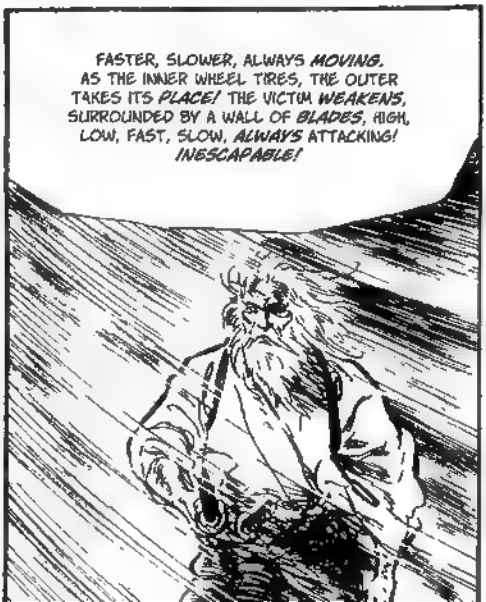

THWOO
THWOO

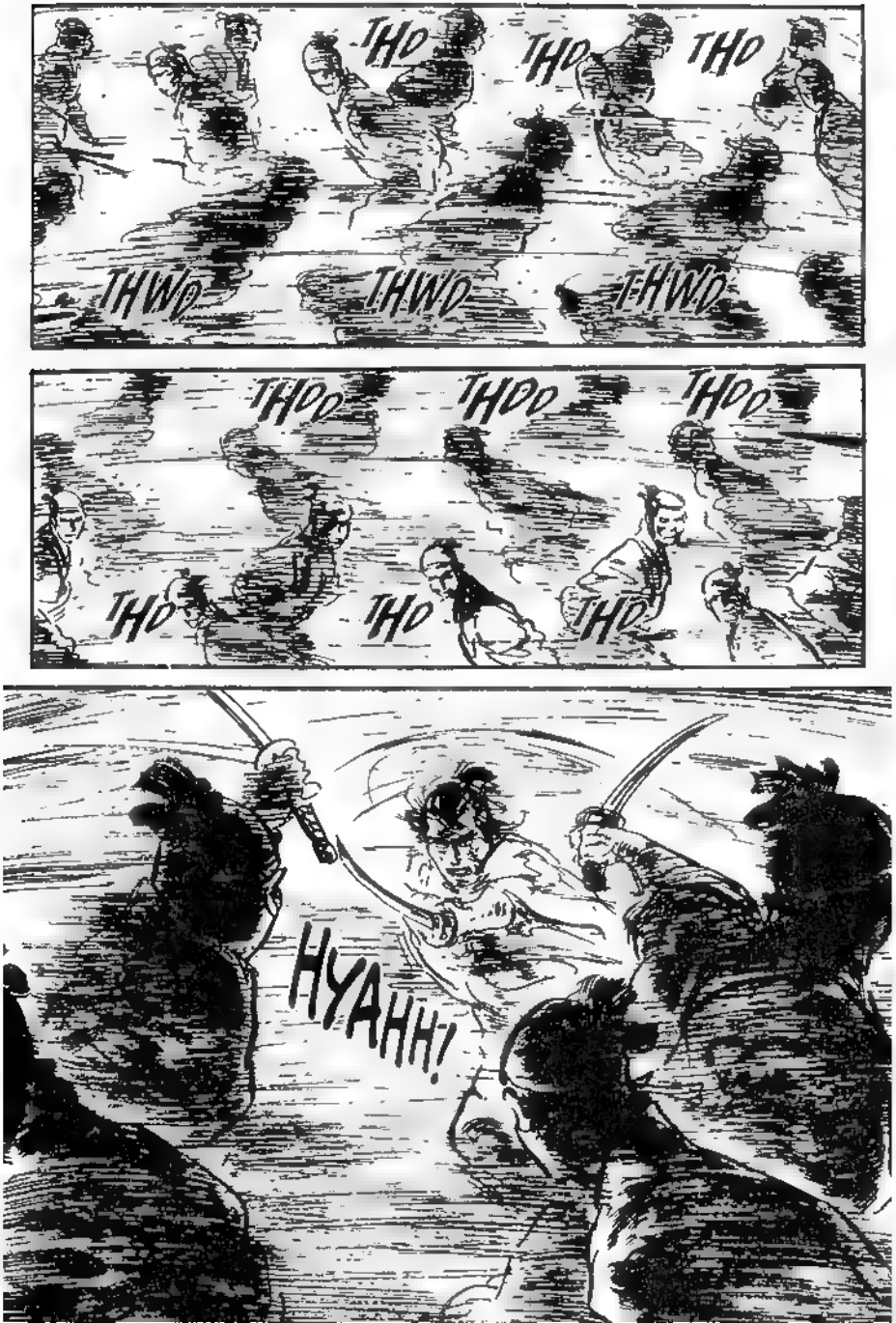
WHSSH
SO THIS IS YOUR SWORD WHEEL...?!
THWDD
THWDD
WHDD
WHDD

SHINNG
KTHNNG
AWTT
WSST

NO ONE WITHIN IN THE CIRCLE HAS EVER ESCAPED ALIVE.


THE WHEEL SPINS FASTER
SLOWER. .
SKSSS


FASTER, SLOWER, ALWAYS MOVING. AS THE INNER WHEEL TIRES, THE OUTER TAKES ITS PLACE! THE VICTIM WEAKENS, SURROUNDED BY A WALL OF BLADES, HIGH, LOW, FAST, SLOW, ALWAYS ATTACKING! INESCAPABLE!

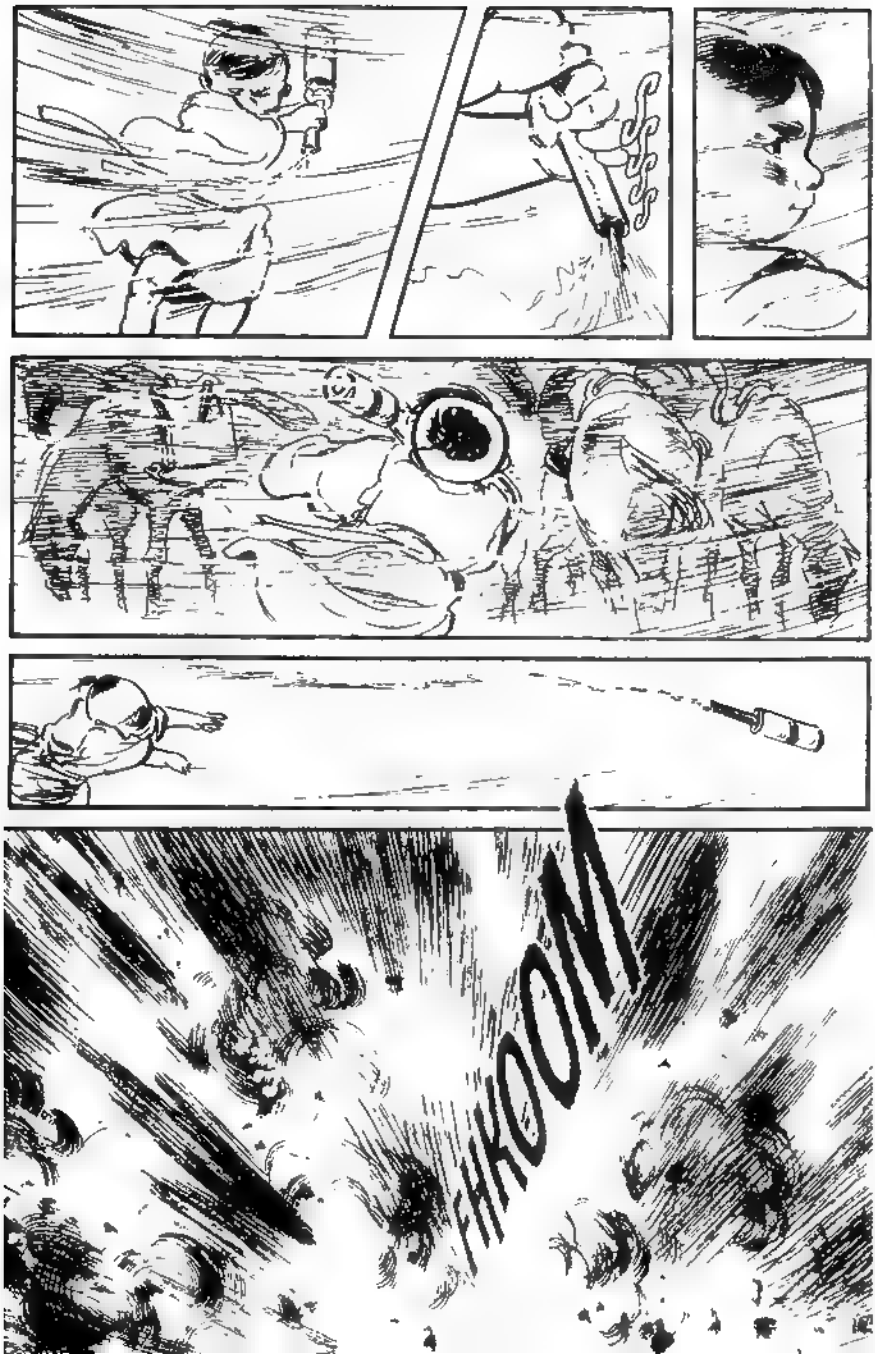

THD
THD
THD
THWD
THWD
THWD
THDD
THDD
THDD
THD
THD
THD
HYAHH!

TRY TO BREAK IT, AND THE WHEEL EXPANDS.
EXPANDS, AND CONTRACTS.
LIKE CUTTING AT A SUMMER BREEZE.
HEH HEH HEH!

KTAK

RNG..!
SHRK
KNIT

SHSSS
WHOOOSH

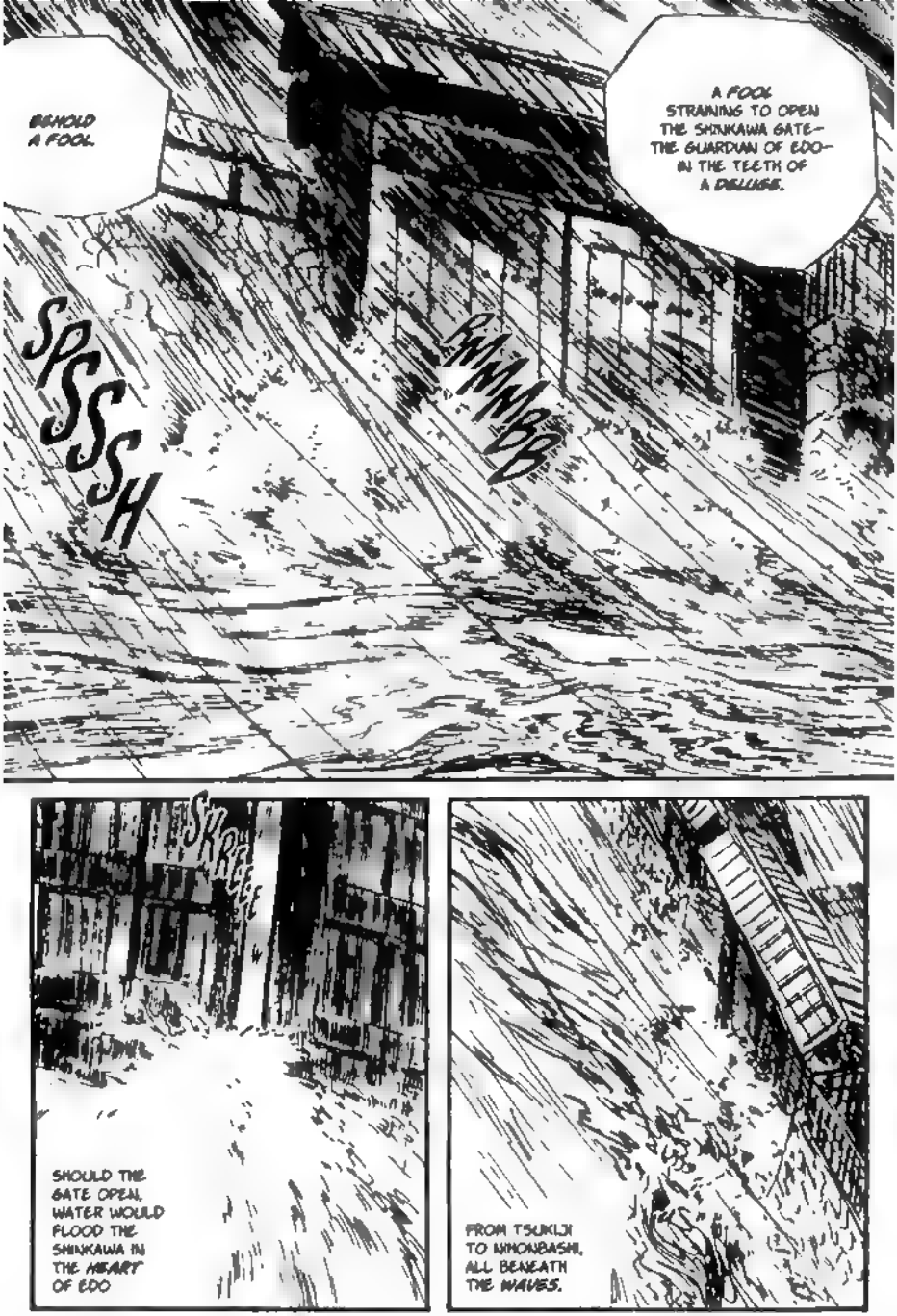

FFKOOM!

WHOOMPH
BRUGHH
DRNN DRNN DRNN

THOK KA
THOK KA!

THD
THD
SHIFT
SKSSH
CHOK
BRUUHH
WHSSH
GCHOK

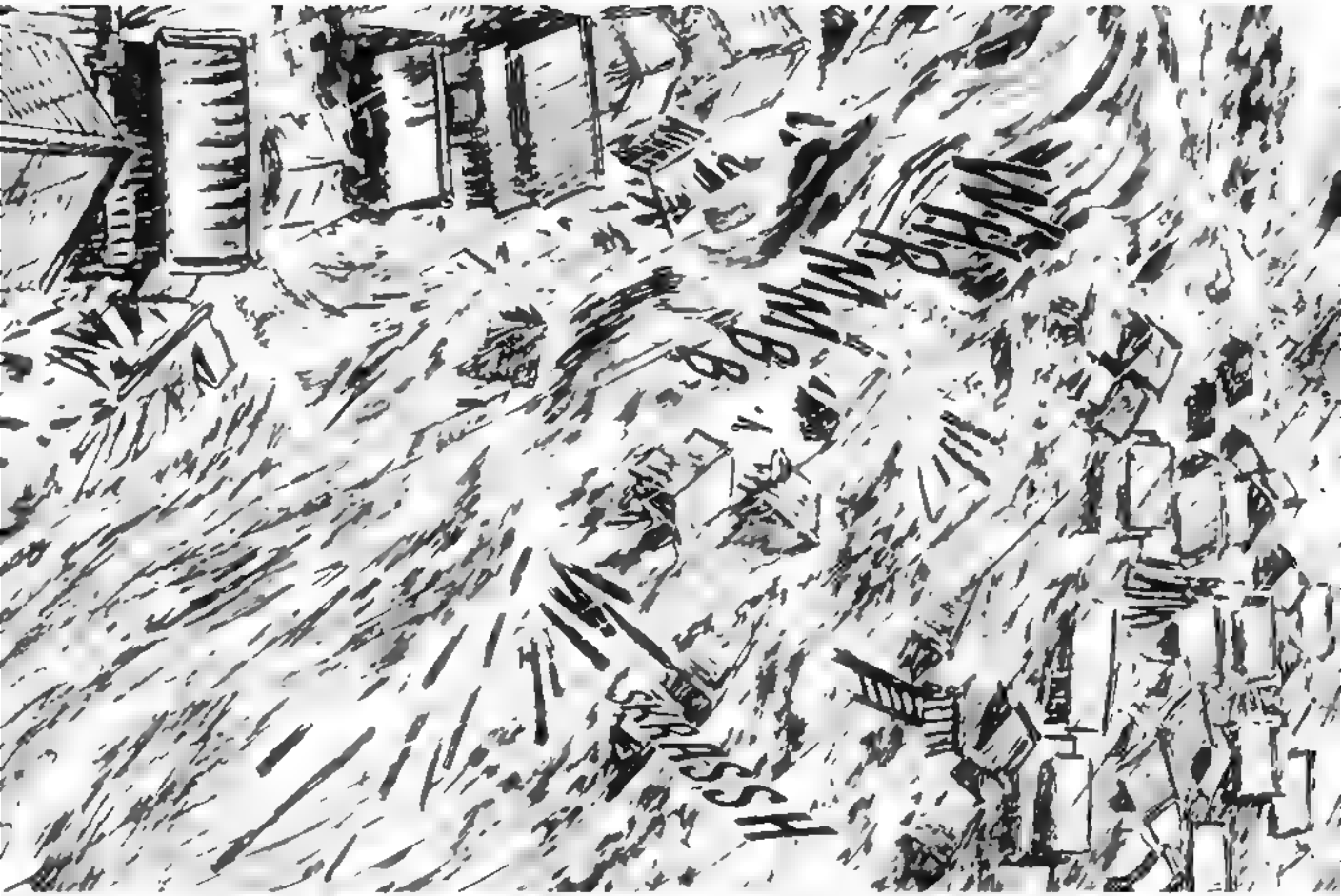
SKURRSH
SPCH
SKASSH
CHUDD


BEHOLD A FOOL.
A FOOL STRAINING TO OPEN THE SHINKAWA GATE— THE GUARDIAN OF EDO— IN THE TEETH OF A DELUGE.
SPSSSH
RMMBB
SHOULD THE GATE OPEN, WATER WOULD FLOOD THE SHINKAWA IN THE HEART OF EDO
SKREEE
FROM TSUKIJI TO NIHONBASHI, ALL BENEATH THE WAVES.

AND *HE* WOULD BE SWALLOWED AS WELL. NO BOAT COULD SURVIVE THAT TORRENT
AND SHOULD THE GATE *CRUMBLE* UNDER THE PRESS OF THE CURRENT, *ALL* EDO ALONG THE LOWER SUMIDA WOULD BE THREATENED—FOR IT WAS HIGH TIDE *AND* THE STORM OF THE CENTURY.
BEHOLD A *FOOL*, WHO BEHELD *NOTHING*.
HEH HEH HEH. HEE HEE!
WHO DIDN'T HAVE A CLUE.
AND SO... *MAELSTROM!*
RMMBB

YES!!
LET'S GO!
SHKOOM
WHRMMBB
SKRRASH

SHKOOOM
AIEE!!


WHIRRRR
BRRRR
SSSSH

fWHOOOSH

WSHHSSSH
WHSSH
FHOOOSH

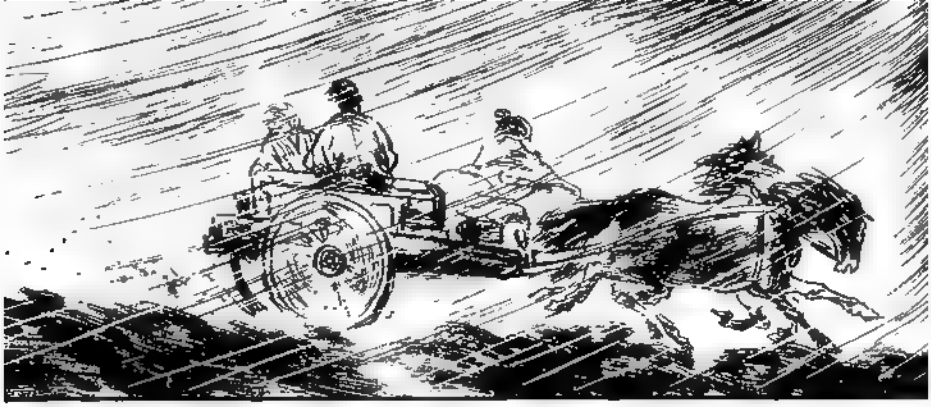
HYAA!!
THOKKA
DRN
N
DRN

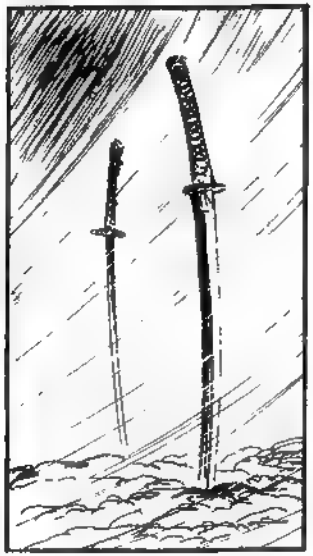
RING!
STOP! EMERGENCY!
KRK
YOUR SWORDS!
PUT DOWN YOUR SWORDS!!

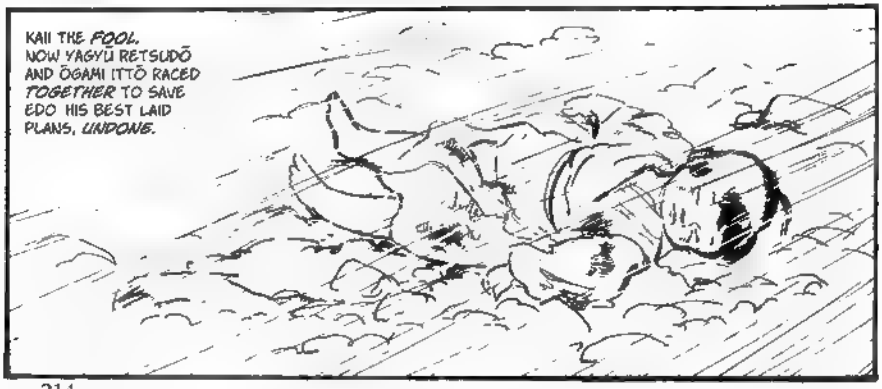
WHAT?!
LOOK! SEE FOR YOURSELF!

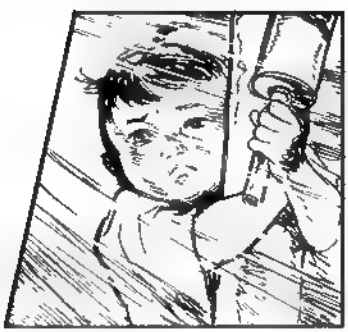
THE STORM OF THE CENTURY!
AND SOME IDIOT OPENED THE SHINKAWA GATE! THE FUNAI'S FLOODING!
THE SUMIDA'S POURING IN! THE LEVEES ARE CRUMBLING!
WHAT THE DEVIL?!
ŌGAMI-SAMA! WE CAN'T STOP IT!
THE FUNAI'S DOOMED! HELP US! PLEASE!
ME?
WHAT CAN I DO?
TŌTEKIRAI!
IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE! IF WE BLOW UP THE BASE OF SUMIYOSHI HILL, SOUTH OF THE SHINKAWA, WE MIGHT START A LANDSLIDE, PLUG THE RIVER MOUTH...

...AND KEEP THE SUMIDA FROM FLOWING IN!
HELP US!
YAGYŪ-SAMA! CEASE THIS BATTLE AND SAVE EDO! SAVE THE PEOPLE!
WHO ARE YOU?!
NAGASAKIYA, TRADER AND TŌTEKIRA! DEALER.
SINK





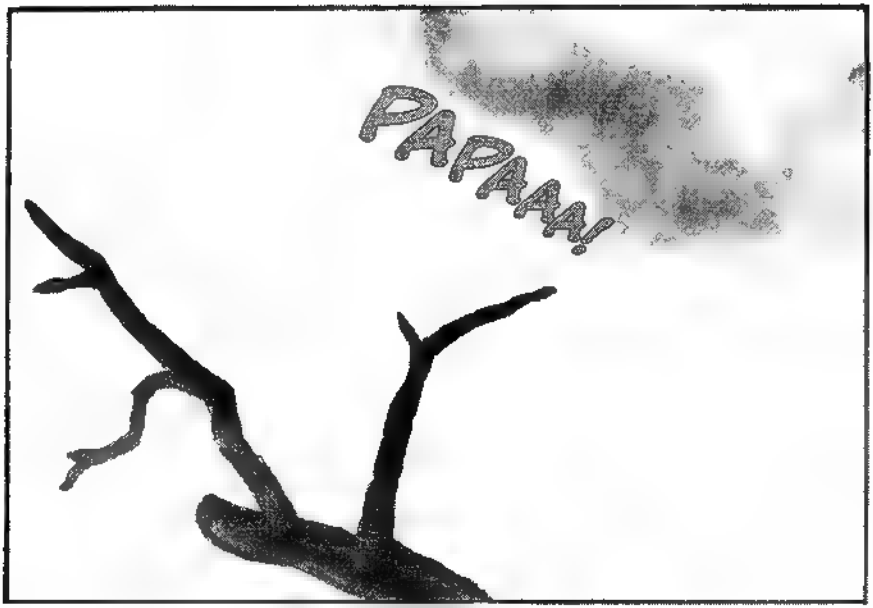

KAII THE *FOOL*.
NOW YAGYŪ RETSUDŌ
AND ŌGAMI ITTŌ RACED
TOGETHER TO SAVE
EDO HIS BEST LAID
PLANS, *UNDONE*.



#MANGAPROJECT

the hundred and eleventh

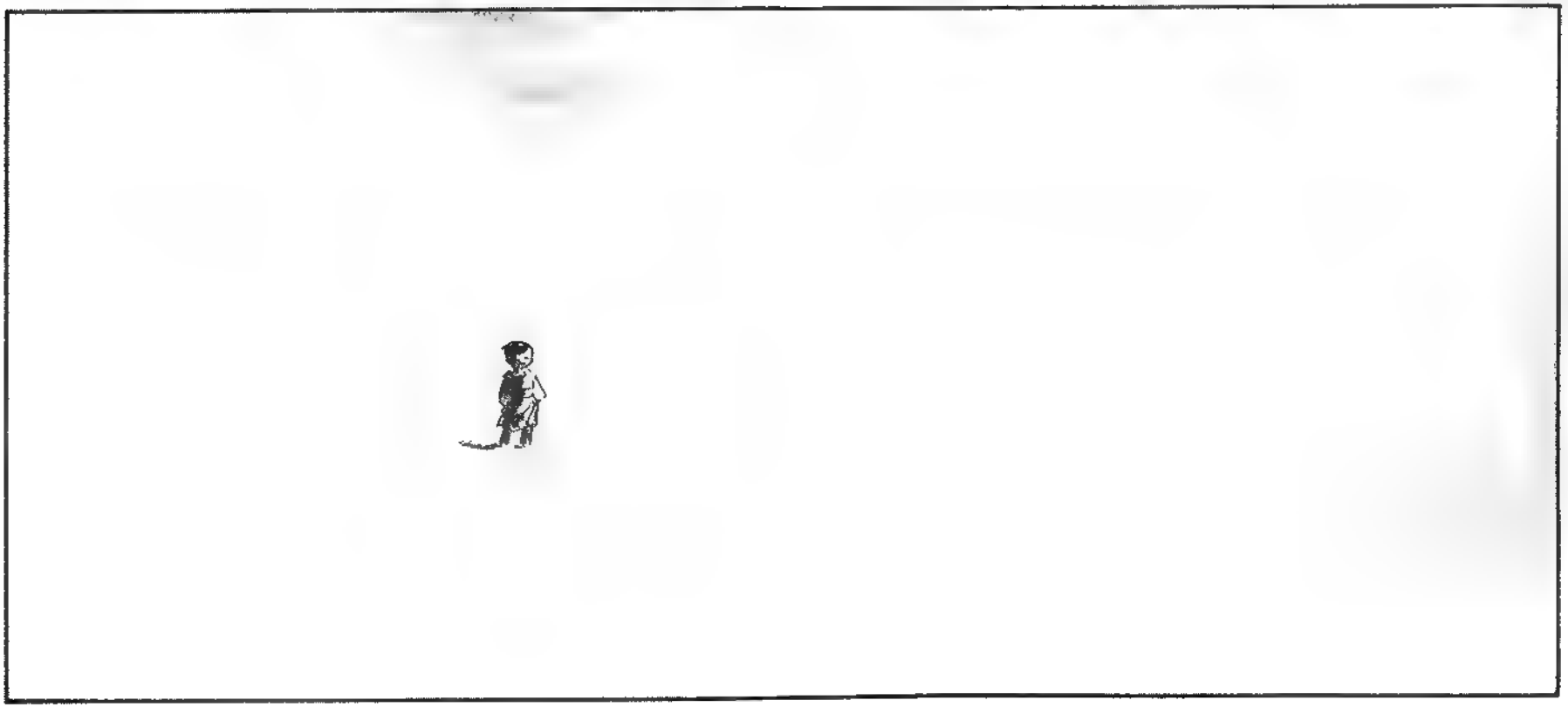
Fire on the River of Blood


PAPAAA!

PAPAAA!

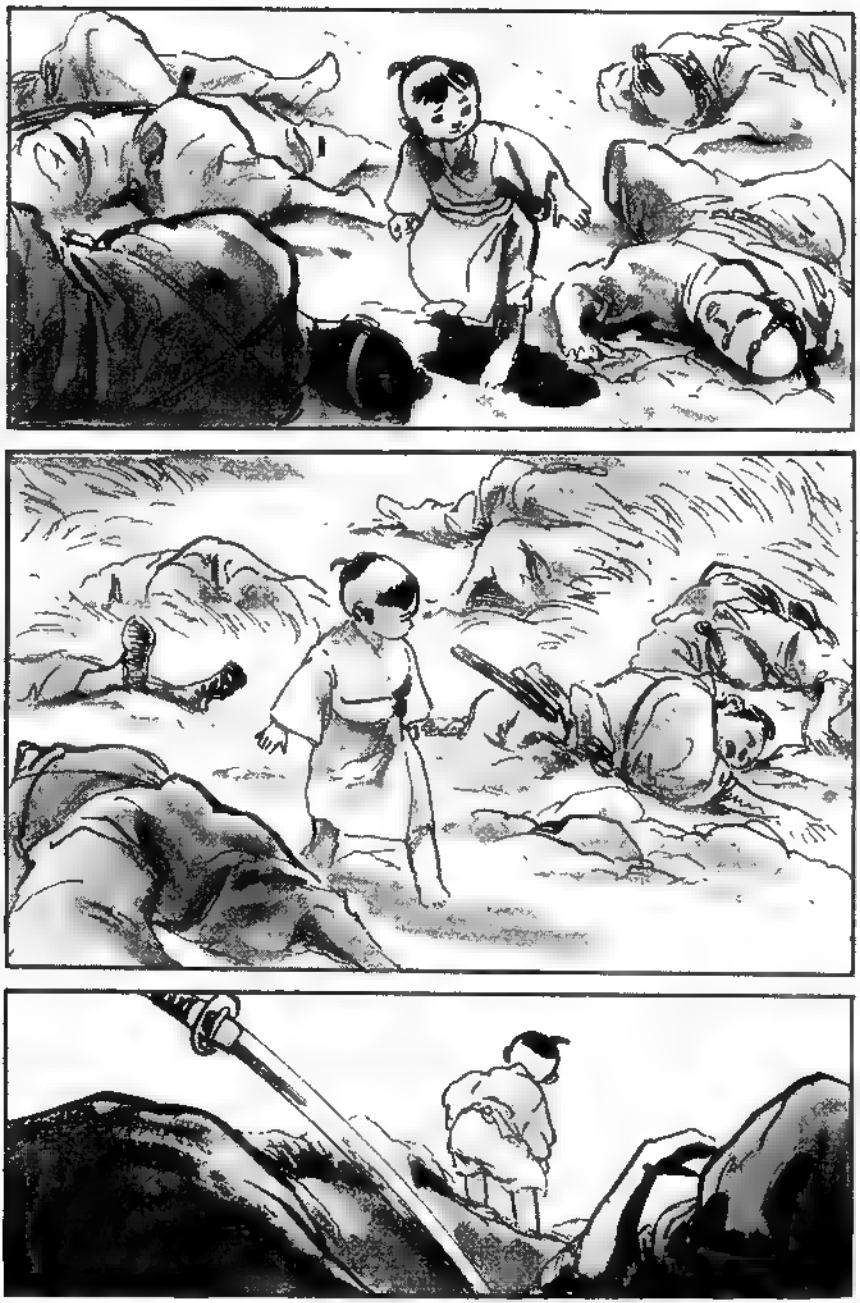
PAPAAA!

PAPAAA!

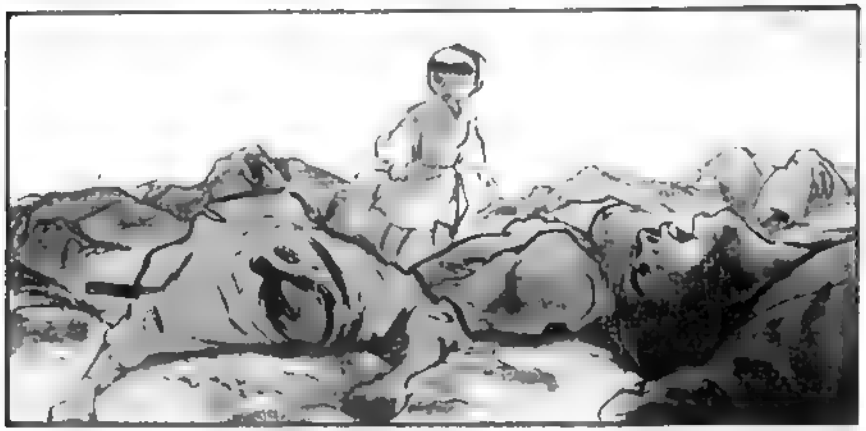


PAPAAA!

PAPAAA!

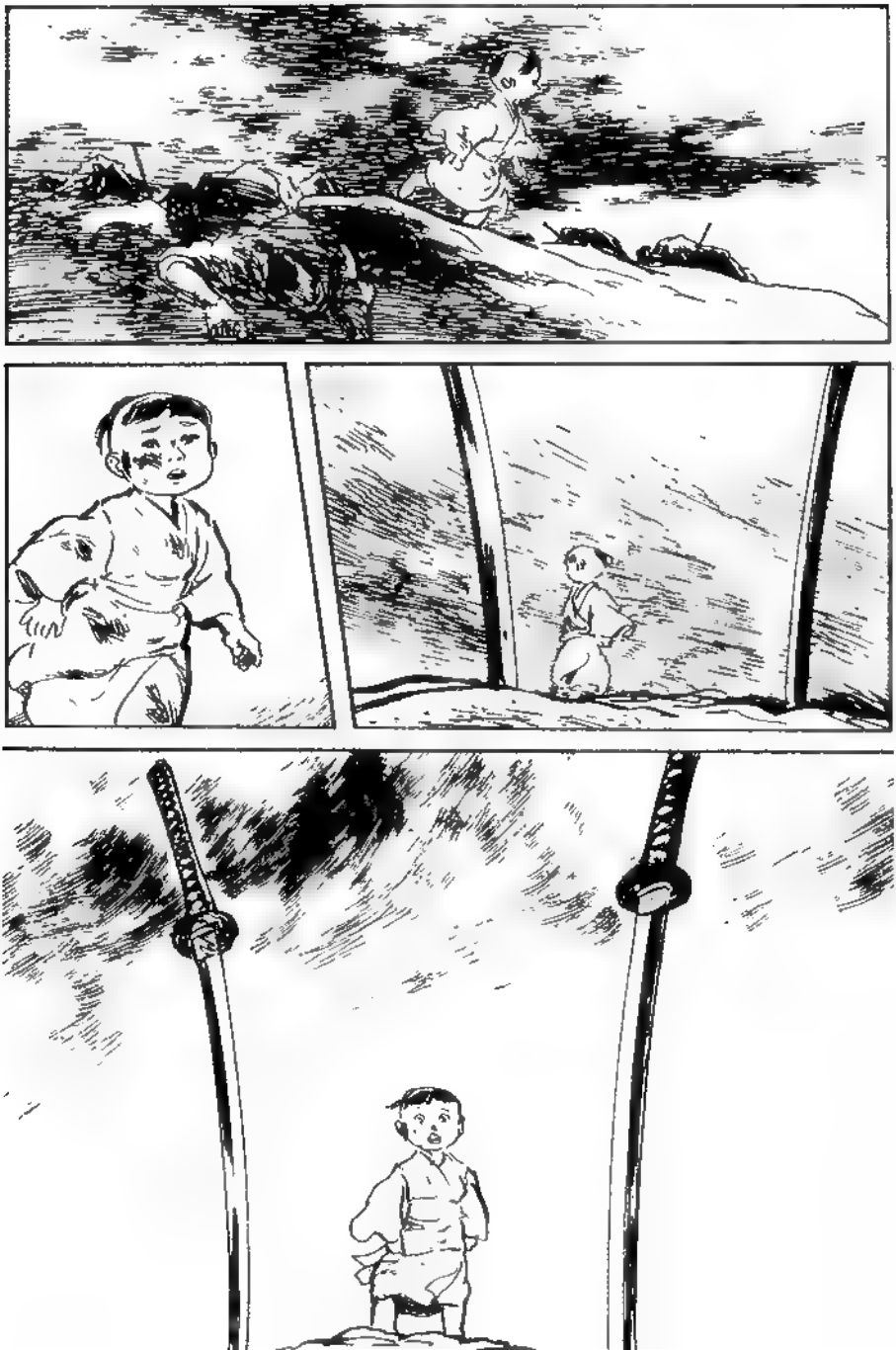


PAPAAA!



PAPA!

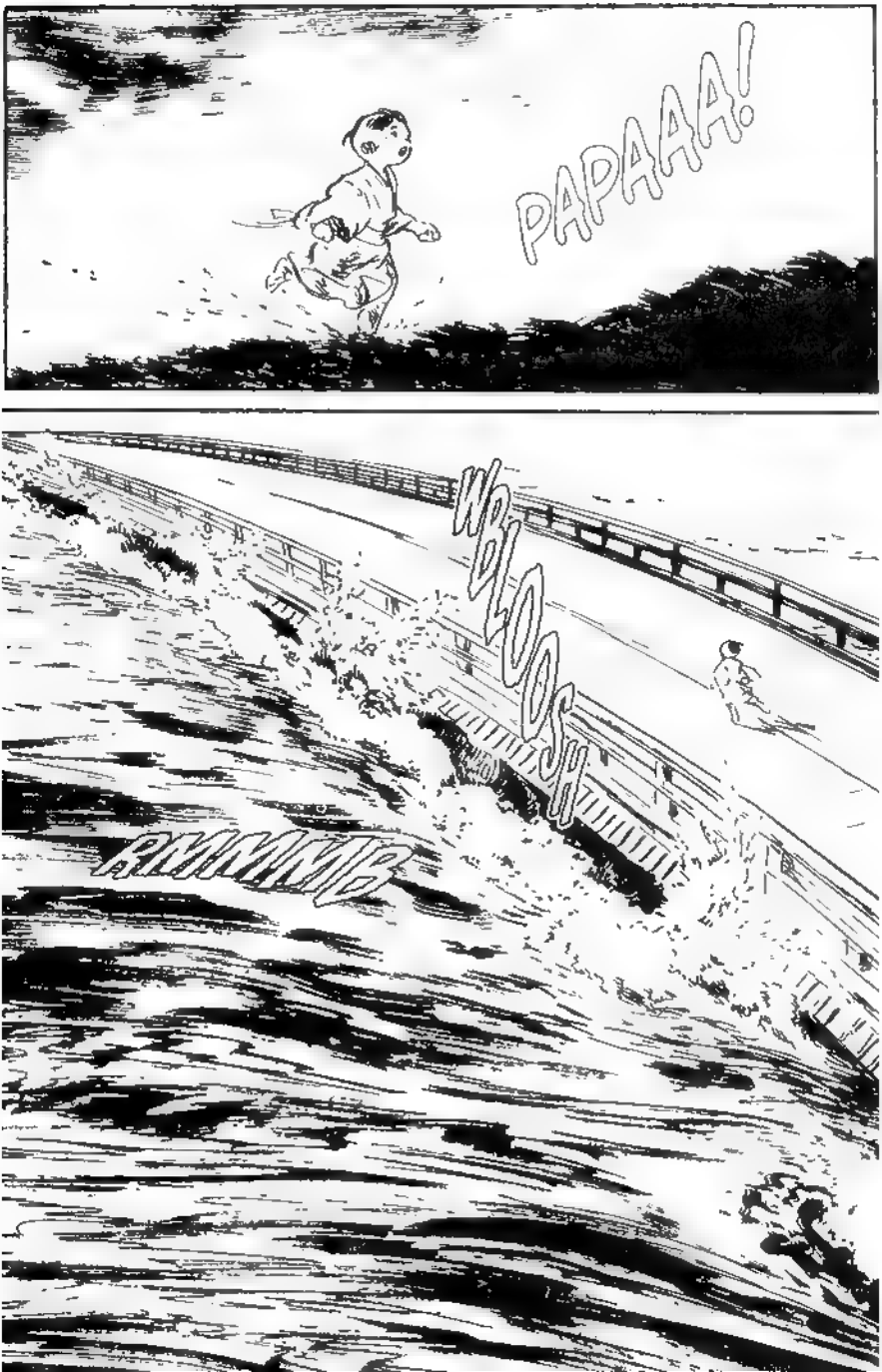
PAPAAA!



IT WAS HIS FATHERS SWORD.
NO FATHER, BUT ONLY HIS SWORD, THRUST INTO THE FIELD OF BATTLE.
IT DIDN'T TAKE HIM LONG TO GUESS THAT THE OTHER WAS YAGYU RETSUDO'S.

THERE WAS NO BLOOD-SHEAR ON THAT BLADE.
PROOF THAT HIS FATHER STILL LIVED.

THE TŌTEKIRAI, TOO, WERE GONE AND THEN

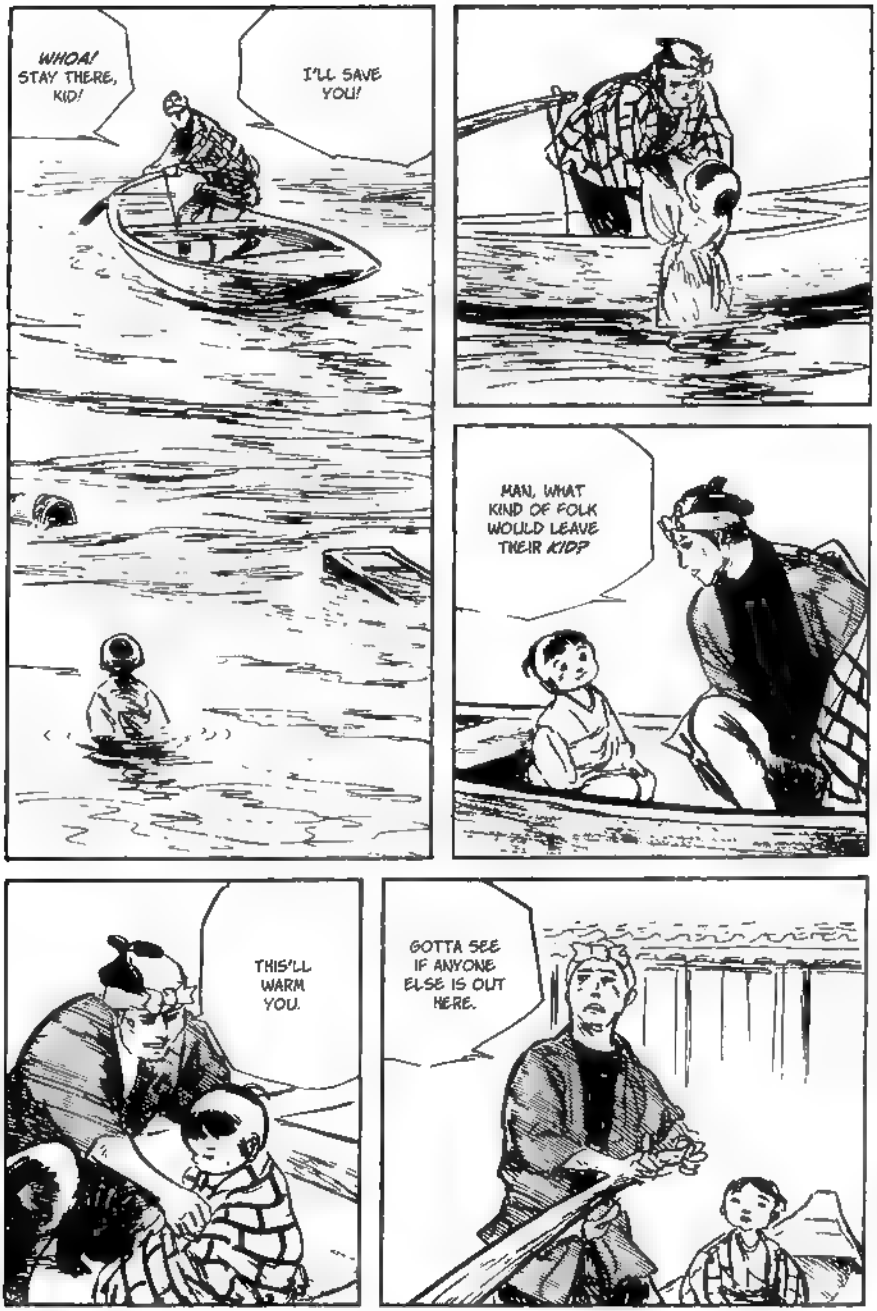

PAPAAA!
WHOOSH
RWWWB

RMBB
KRRRK
THE SUMIDA HAD BEEN UNLEASHED ON THE EDO FUNAI AT THE HEIGHT OF THE TIDE, EVEN AS SEVEN DAYS OF RAIN SWELLED THE TRIBUTARIES OF THE ŌKAWA, SENDING IT HIGH ABOVE FLOOD LEVEL. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ITS LONG HISTORY, EDO WAS UNDER WATER..
KRAKK

SPSH SPSH

PAPAAA!

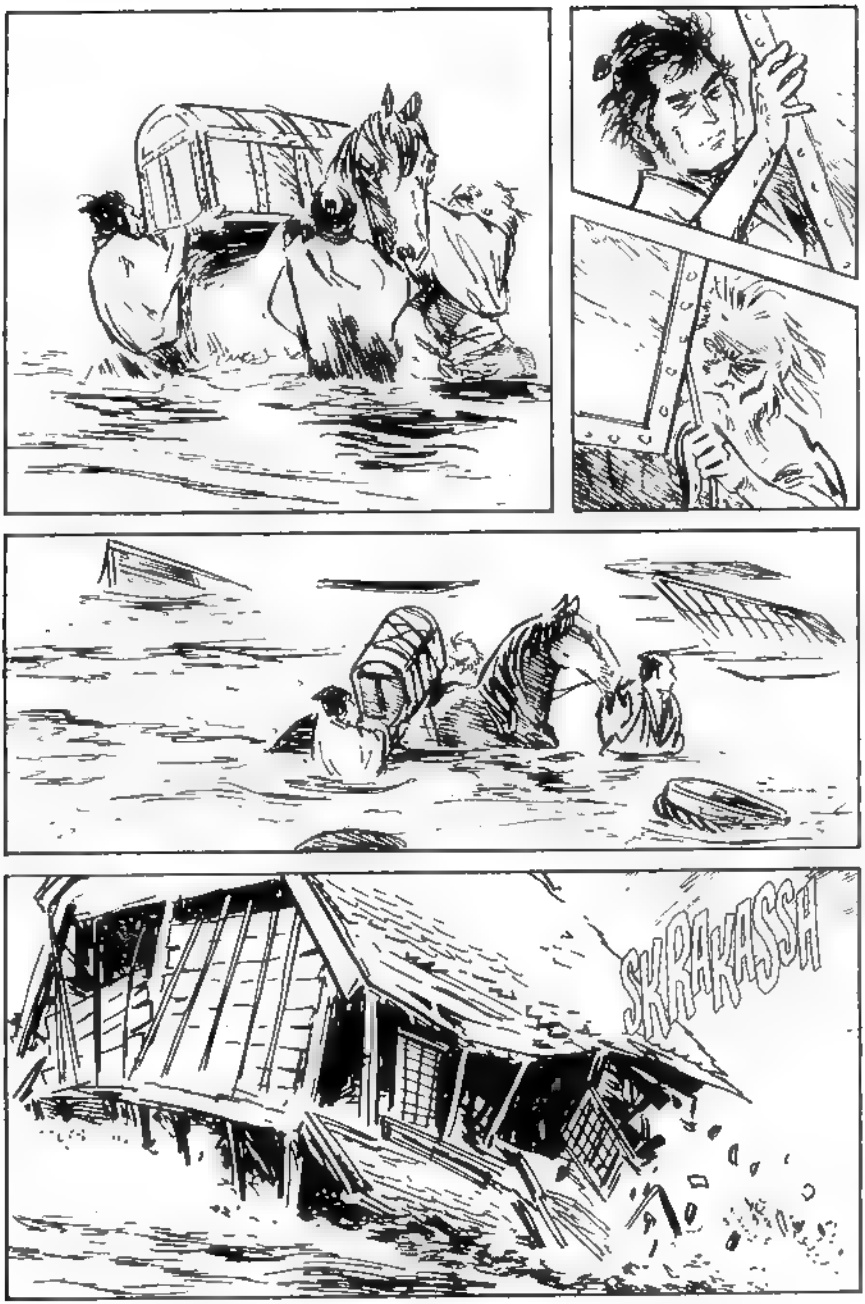
PAPAAA!
PAPAAA!
PAPAA!
PAPA!


WHOA! STAY THERE, KID!
I'LL SAVE YOU!
MAN, WHAT KIND OF FOLK WOULD LEAVE THEIR KID?
THIS'LL WARM YOU.
GOTTA SEE IF ANYONE ELSE IS OUT HERE.

HEY!
HELLOO?!
ANYONE HERE...?!
PAPAAA!
POOR LITTLE GUY
MAYBE HIS FOLKS GOT WASHED AWAY
PAPAAA!
ANYBODY HERE?!

SPLSSSH
WHSSH

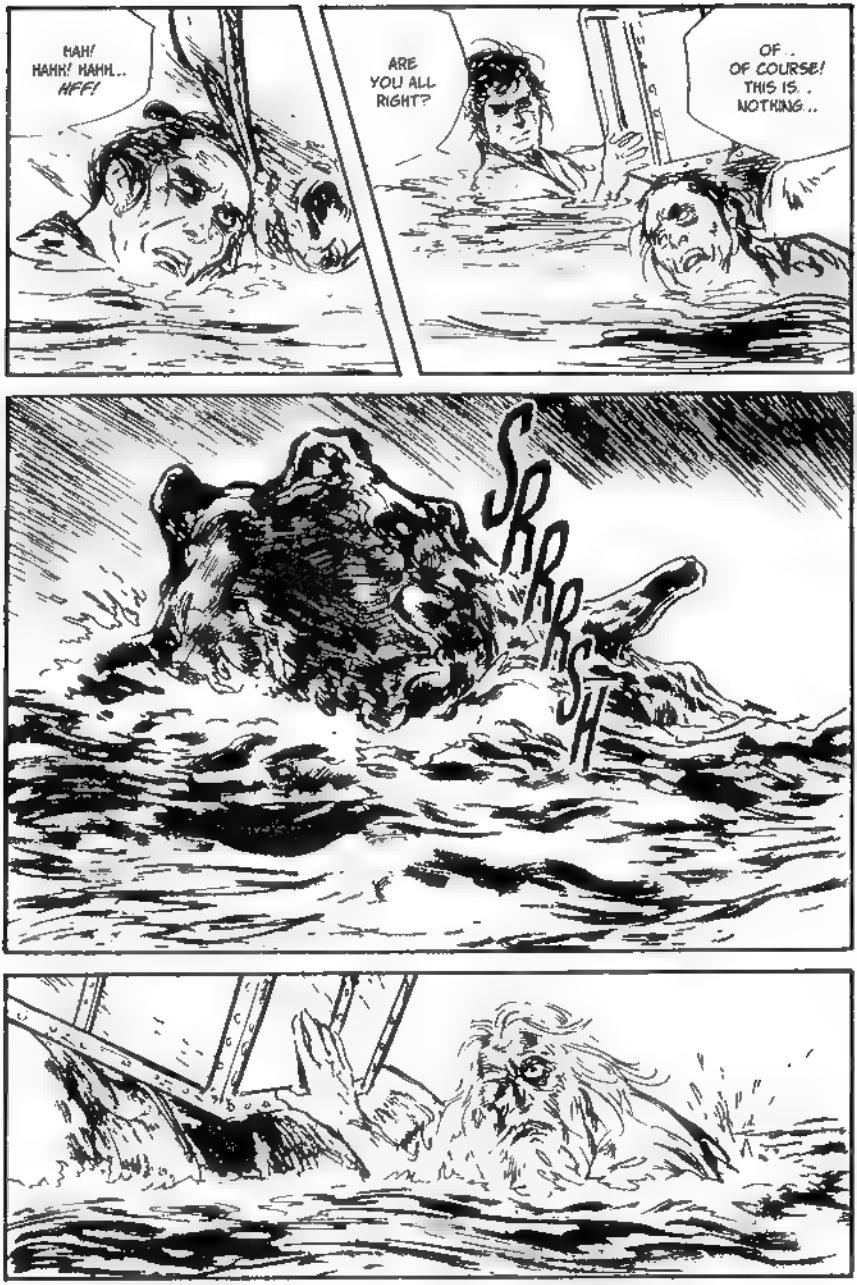
HIYAAH!
HIYAAH!
THRSSH
SPSSH
THIS S IT FOR THE CART!

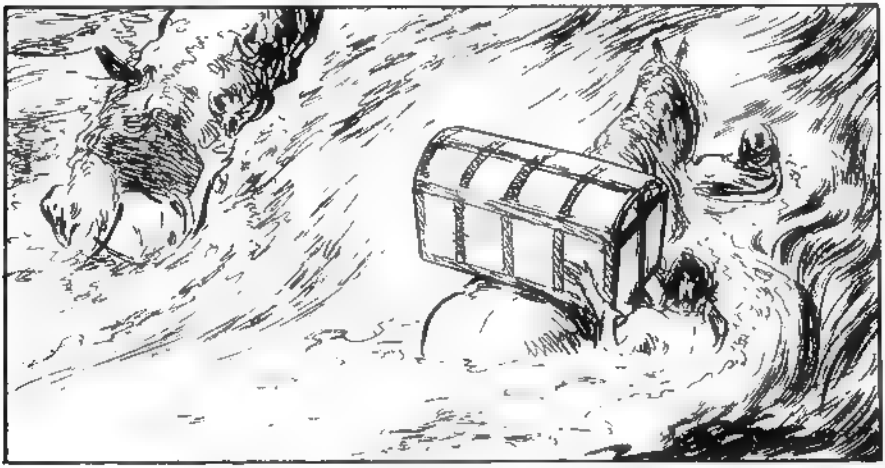

SKRRHSSH

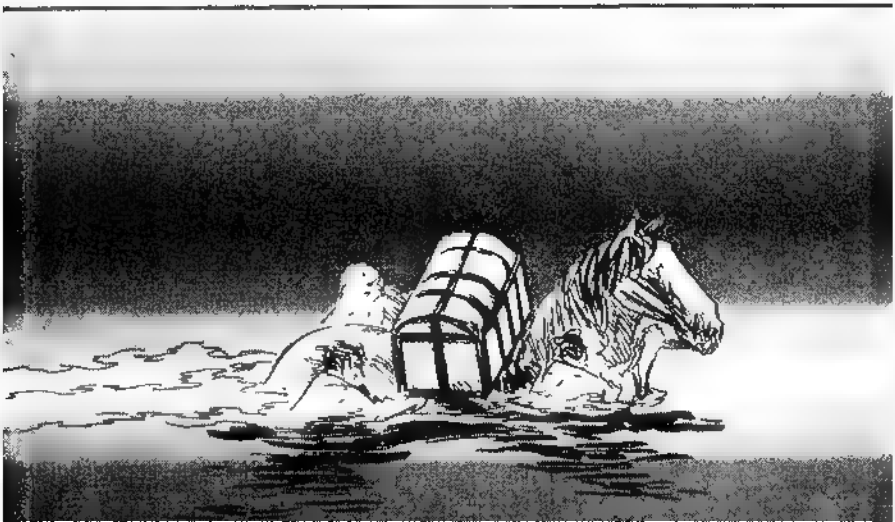
RMBBB

RMBBB
BLSSSH

SPLSSH
BMMMB


HAH! HAHH! HAHH.. HFF!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
OF.. OF COURSE! THIS IS.. NOTHING..
SRRRSH

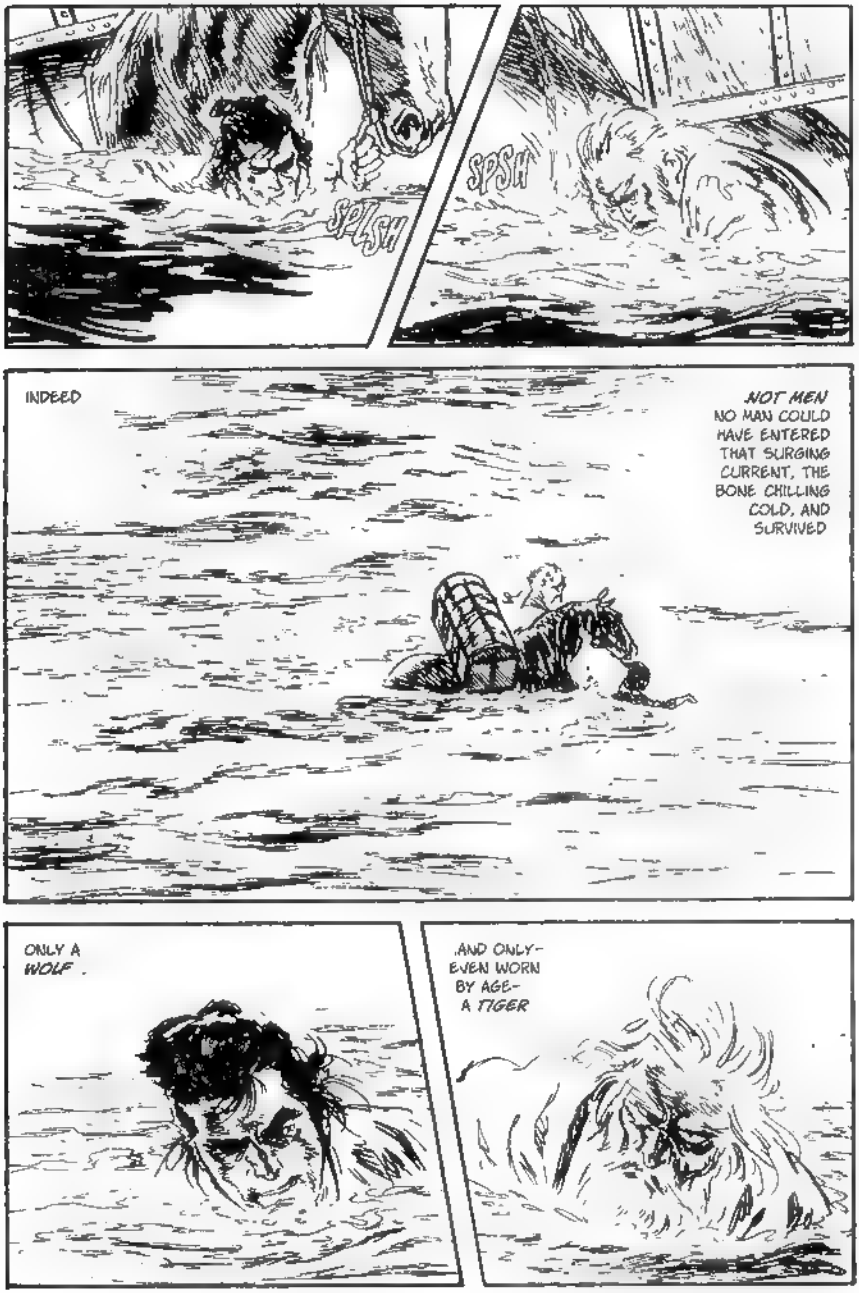


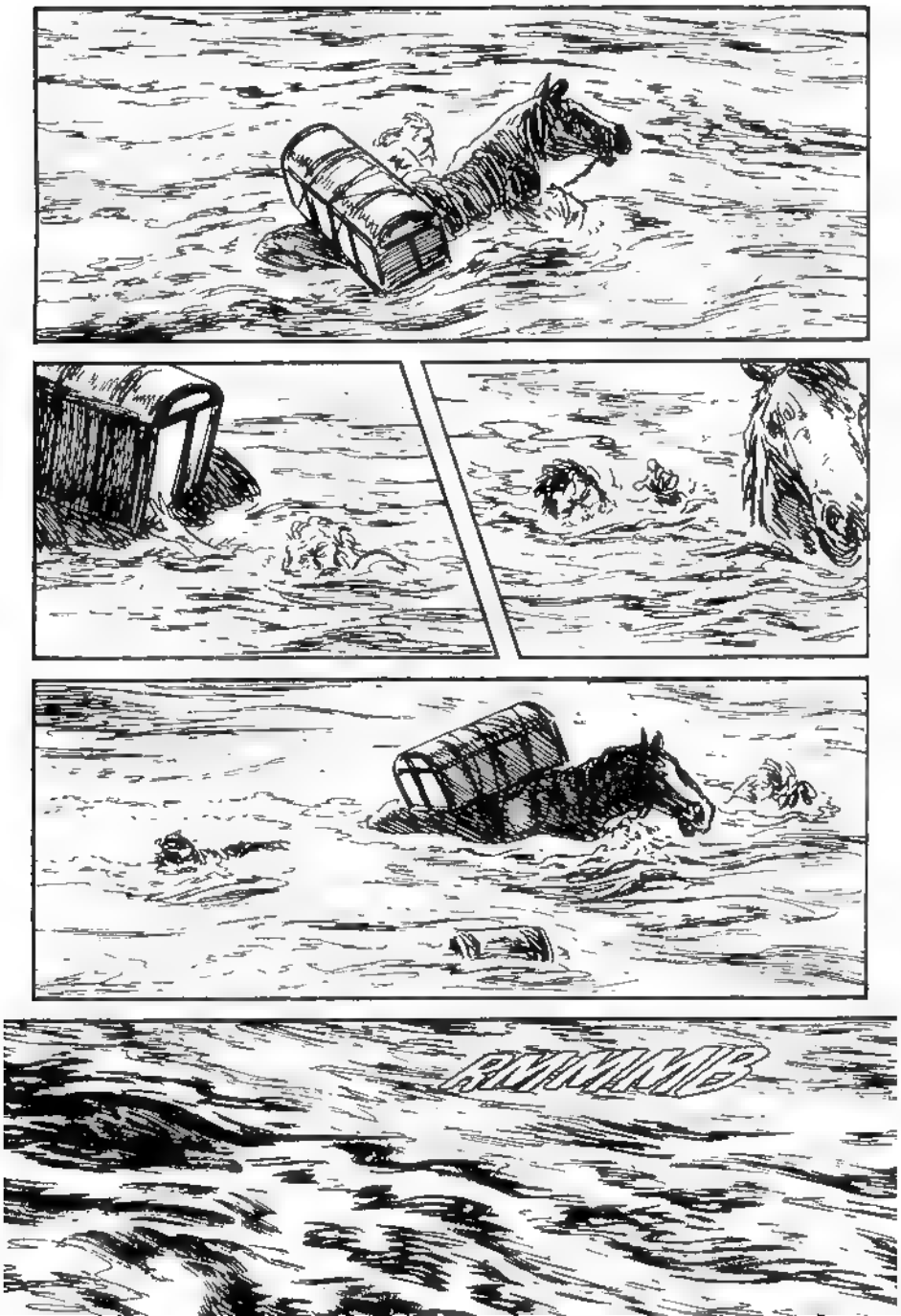


KAAH.
KUHA.
SO.
COLD
NAGA-
SAKIYA!
C..
COLD.
RWANDA

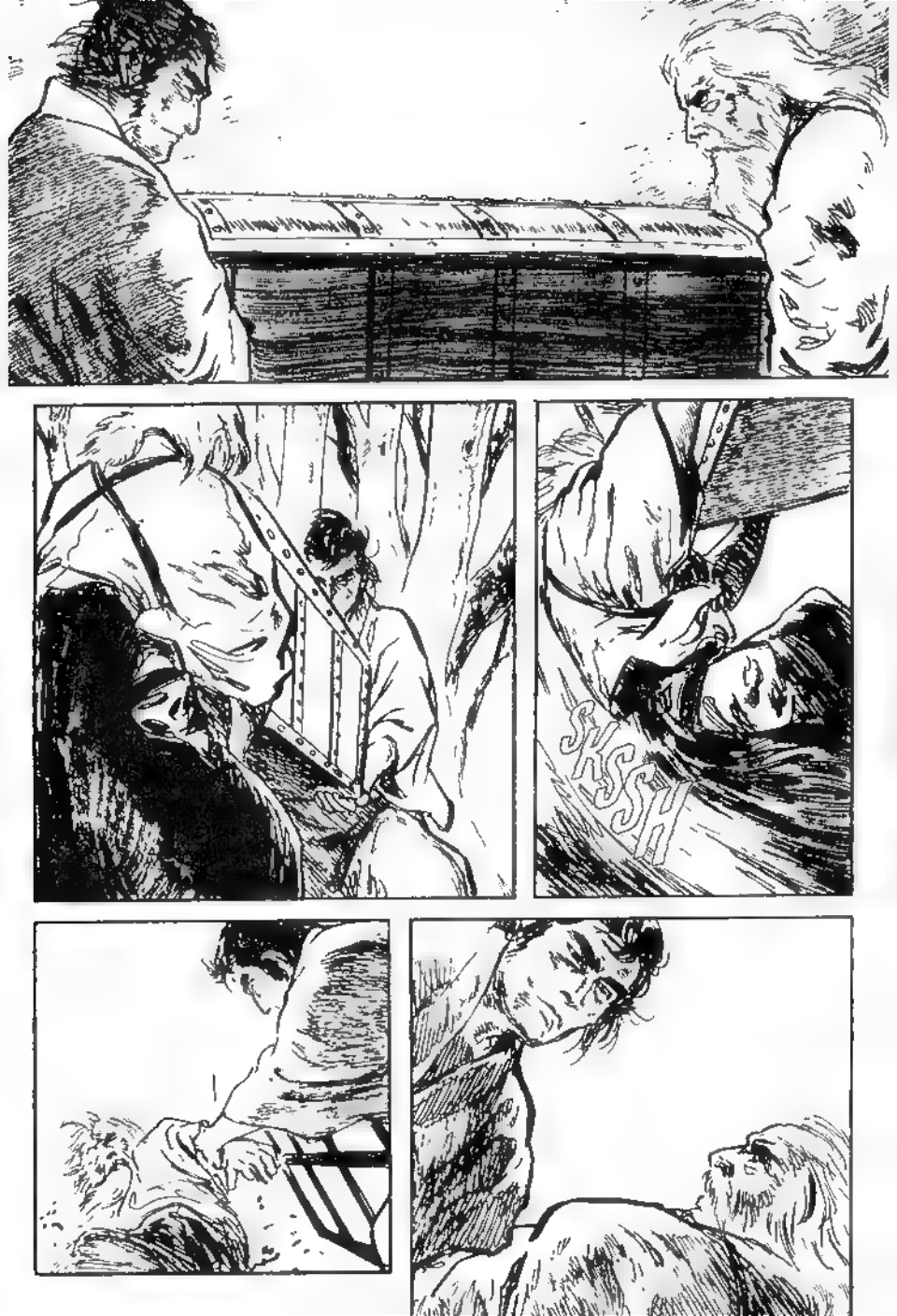
E...
EDO
NAGA-
SAKIYA!!
SAVE
EDO
BOTH
OF YOU,
TOGETHER.
EDO

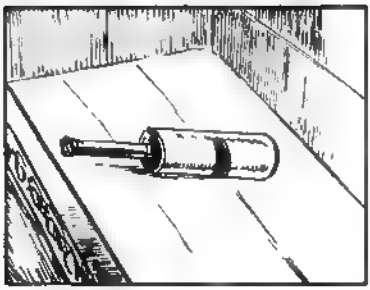
HE FOUGHT THESE FRIGID WATERS WITH A BUSHI'S WILL. MAGNIFICENT!
NO MAN COULD SURVIVE
THEN WE ARE NOT MEN?
TRULY, WOLF AND TIGER.
LET'S GO, ITTŌ!


SPLSH
SPSH
INDEED
NOT MEN
NO MAN COULD HAVE ENTERED THAT SURGING CURRENT, THE BONE CHILLING COLD, AND SURVIVED
ONLY A WOLF.
AND ONLY- EVEN WORN BY AGE- A TIGER


RMMMB

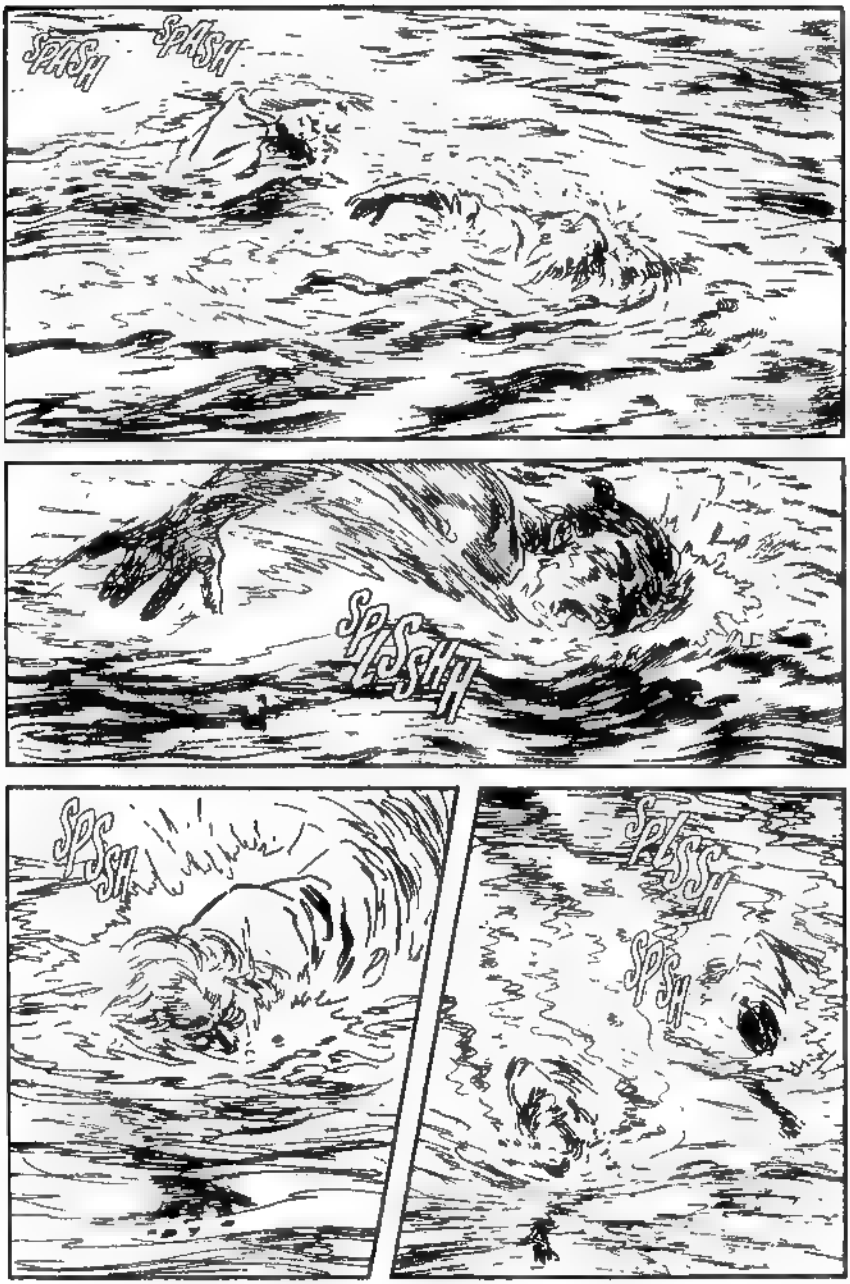
BRRRR!!!

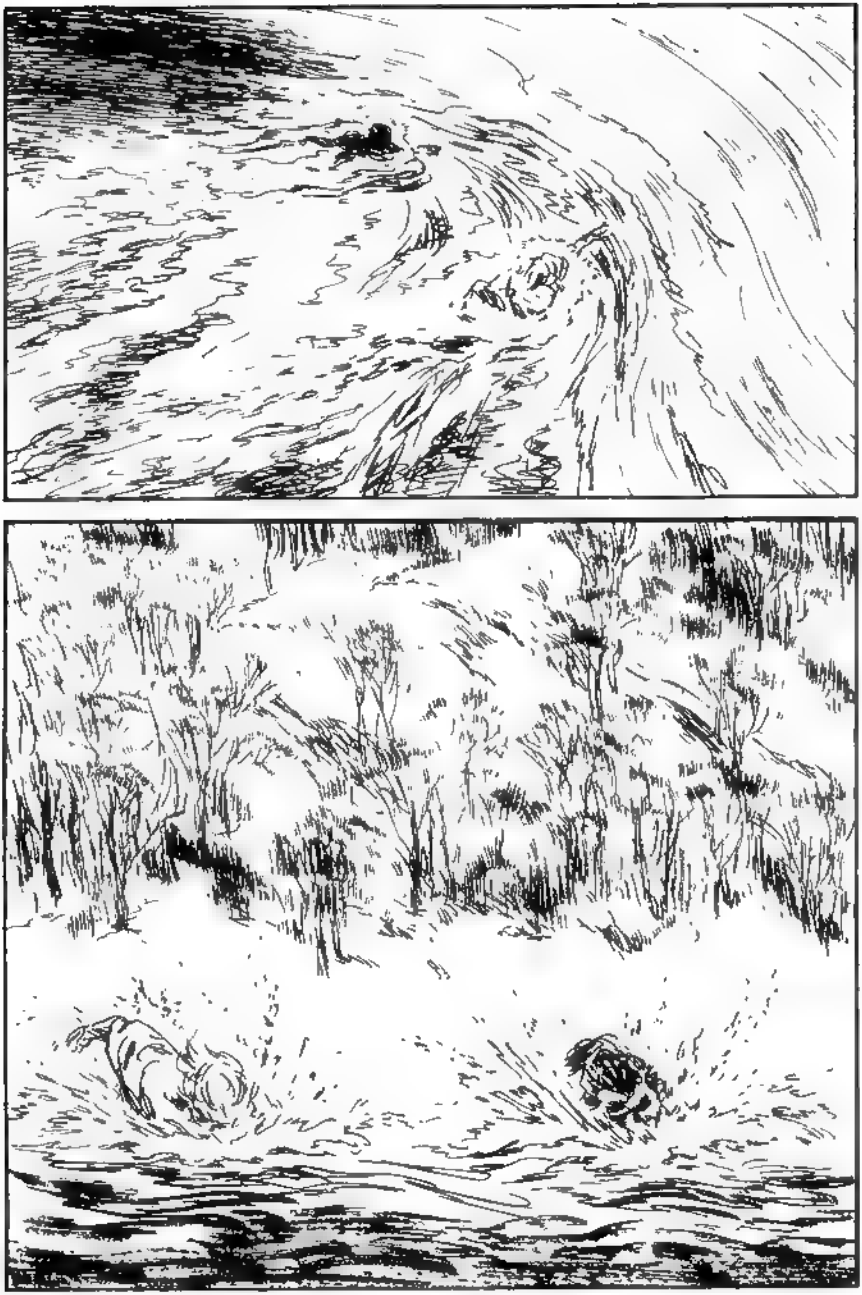

SKSH



YOU FIRST, RETSUDŌ
NO LINES IN HELL
DO NOT DIE, RETSUDŌ.
NOR YOU, ITTŌ.

KBLOSH

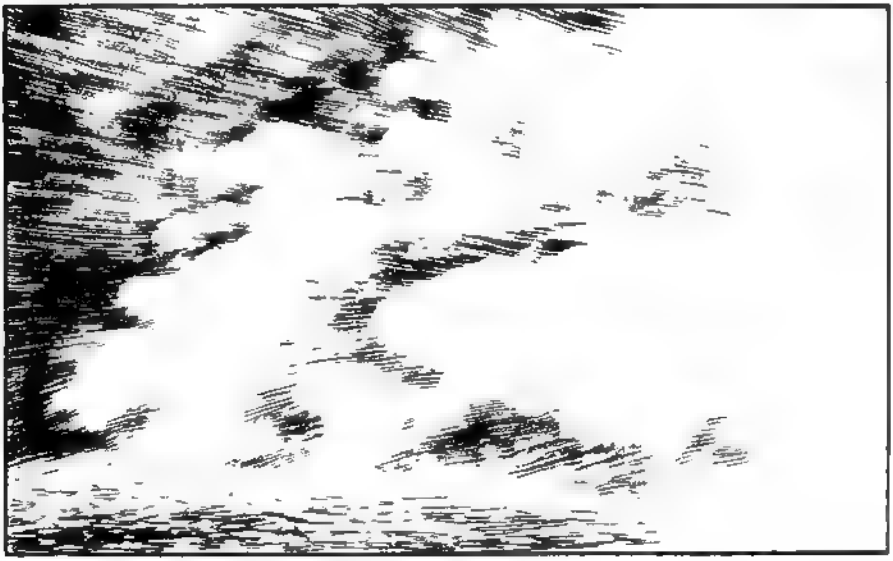

SPASH
SPLSH
SPLSSHH
SPSSH
SPLSSH
SPSSH



WHOOM

KSHRRAMM
FWHAMM
FWHKOOM

SHRRRMMB



WHOOOM
WHROOM
RMMBB

THERE! THERE!
HUH ?!
LEESH
HEY! WAIT! WHERE THE-?!
GET WET IN THIS COLD, YOU'LL DIE!
I SAID WAIT!
WHAT THE DEVIL?!
THERE!!

LONE WOLF AND CUB BOOK TWENTY-TWO: THE END
TO BE CONTINUED

子遠水狼

GLOSSARY

buke
Samurai families.

bushi
A samurai. A member of the warrior class.

bushidō
The way of the warrior. Also known as *shidō*.

daimyō
A feudal lord.

daisuimon
One of the main water gates used to regulate tidal fluxes in Edo's rivers.

dōtanuki
A battle sword. Literally, "sword that cuts through torsos."

Edo
Edo was a castle town, that rose up around the moats and ramparts of Edo castle, the stronghold of the Tokugawa clan. The central core of the city, administered by the *machi-bugyō* city commissioner, who reported directly to the shōgun's senior councilors, and was demarcated on official maps by a black line, the *kuroibiki*, and was called the *go-funai*.

enishi
A fateful, chance connection between two people.

funai
The central core of Edo (see *Edo*).

gozabune
A government official's ship.

honorifics
Japan is a class and status society, and proper forms of address are critical. Common markers of respect are the prefixes *o* and *go*, and a wide range of suffixes. Some of the suffixes you will encounter in *Lone Wolf and Cub*:
chan – for children, young women, and close friends
dono – archaic; used for higher-ranked or highly respected figures
san – the most common, used among equals or near-equals
sama – used for superiors
sensei – used for teachers, masters, respected entertainers, and politicians.

ki
Energy. The fundamental mind/body energy of Eastern medicine.

kuchiyaku
Kuchiyaku were the tasters for the

shōgun family. They were called kuchiyaku, or "official mouths," because they checked for poison with their own tongues.

machi-bugyō
The Edo city commissioner, combining the post of mayor and chief of police. A post held in monthly rotation by two senior Tokugawa vassals, in charge of administration, maintaining the peace, and enforcing the law in Edo. Their rule extended only to commoners; samurai in Edo were controlled by their own *daimyō* and his officers. The *machi-bugyō* had an administrative staff and a small force of armed policemen at his disposal.

measurements
bu – approximately 3 millimeters.
sun – approximately 3 centimeters.
shaku – ten *sun*, approximately 30 centimeters.
ri – approximately 4 kilometers (2.5 miles).

meifumadō
The Buddhist Hell. The way of demons and damnation.

ryū
Often translated as "school." The many variations of swordsmanship and other martial arts were passed down from generation to generation to the offspring of the originator of the technique or set of techniques, and to any *deishi* students that sought to learn from the master. The largest schools had their own *dōjō* training centers and scores of students. An effective swordsman had to study the different techniques of the various schools to know how to block them in combat. Many *ryū* also had a set of special, secret techniques that were only taught to school initiates.

the Shuu Jing
One of the Five Classics of early Chinese writing. Pronounced *shōkyo* in Japanese. The Classic of Documents, The Book of History.

tōtekirai
Hand-thrown explosives. A primitive hand grenade.

子連狼

#MANGAPROJECT